Bury Domestic Abuse Strategy

2026-2028



Bury Council

Bury Domestic Abuse Partnership Board

LET'S do it! Shared success across Bury



Foreword

“Domestic abuse has a devastating impact on individuals, children, families and communities across Bury. This strategy reflects our shared commitment to preventing abuse, supporting those affected and holding those who cause harm to account.
By working together across communities, public services and partner organisations, we can build a borough where people are safe, heard and supported, and where domestic abuse is recognised and addressed at the earliest opportunity.”

- Councillor Richard Gold, Cabinet Member for Communities and Inclusion -

"I was left feeling broken, frightened and questioning everything around me. I was living with constant anxiety, fear and uncertainty, and at times I honestly didn't know how I was going to get through it all... The support I received gave me something I desperately needed when my world was falling apart - someone in my corner."

- Lived Experience Voice -

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Our Partners

Bury Domestic Abuse Partnership Board

The organisations shown below make up Bury's Domestic Abuse Partnership Board (DAPB). However, tackling domestic abuse is a shared responsibility. We are committed to working alongside community groups, commissioned providers, residents, people with lived experience and wider partners to ensure our response continues to reflect the needs of Bury's communities.

Greater Manchester Police

Bury Council

Bury Safeguarding Partnership

Probation Service

TLC Talk Listen Change

safenet a calico group service

Respect

VCFA Bury Voluntary, Community & Faith Alliance

NHS Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust

NHS Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust

NHS Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust

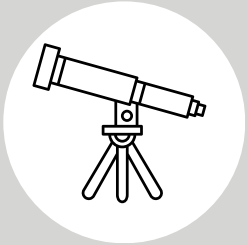
NHS Greater Manchester

Bury's Mission



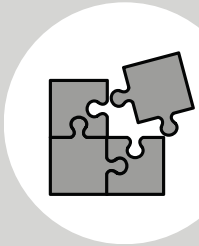
OUR MISSION

To work together, across the whole partnership, to prevent domestic abuse, protect victims, survivors and families, hold perpetrators to account - so that Bury residents are heard, supported and safe.



OUR VISION

We want to see Bury become a borough where domestic abuse is recognised early, responded to consistently, and where victims, survivors and children are heard, supported and never left to navigate the system alone.



OUR APPROACH

Together, we will:

- Use data and insight to identify risk and target prevention earlier
- Ensure clear pathways to support at every level of need
- Listen to and act on the voices of victims, survivors, children and communities

Guided by Bury's LET'S (Local, Enterprising, Together and Strengths-based) principles, we will take a local, strengths-based and collaborative approach to preventing harm, supporting recovery and creating lasting change.

Introduction

Domestic abuse affects thousands of Bury residents each year, with many incidents going unreported and unseen. It is one of the most prevalent crimes within our Borough, with a profound impact on individuals, families and neighbourhoods in Bury.

The Domestic Abuse Act of 2021 ('the Act') strengthens the statutory framework for preventing abuse, protecting victims, and ensuring that agencies work together to deliver consistent, high-quality support. It defines domestic abuse as any single incident or pattern of behaviour, between people aged 16 and over who are or have been personally connected.



Domestic abuse is not limited to intimate partners. It can occur between current or former partners, family members, adult children and parents, and others who are personally connected. The Act also recognises children who see, hear or experience the effects of abuse as victims in their own right; including unborn children.

Introduction - Continued

The Act places statutory duties on local authorities and community safety partners to work together to address such abuse.

Domestic abuse is a priority within Bury's Community Safety Partnership Strategy and is reflected throughout the wider safeguarding partnership framework, including the Bury Safeguarding Partnership. This strategy provides the collective response to those priorities, bringing together prevention, protection, support and accountability across the borough.

Bury's Domestic Abuse Partnership Board (DAPB) has developed this strategy to deliver on the Act's requirements, shaped by local insight and lived experience. It sets out our experience of domestic abuse in Bury, how we will go further to prevent and intervene earlier, and the key commitments the Partnership will pursue together - while staying agile to changes in legislation, learning and funding. The DAPB reports through the Community Safety Partnership whilst maintaining strong links with safeguarding arrangements across the borough.

Bury Domestic Abuse Partnership Board

Strategic Context: Cross-government

The cross-government strategy sets a national mission to halve violence against women and girls within a decade, shaped by extensive engagement with survivors and frontline professionals.

Headline National Context:

One in eight women experienced DA, sexual assault or stalking in 2025



The estimated economic cost of DA is £89.3bn (2025/26 prices).

Key commitments from the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy include:

- New offences for deepfake sexual images and non-consensual intimate images
- £30m more for safe accommodation
- A new national VAWG centre
- A ban on strangulation depictions in pornography
- A strengthened PSHE curriculum
- Expanded DAPOs, Stalking Protection Orders and MATAC
- Continued rollout of Rapid Video Response.

Local Context: Domestic Abuse in Bury

Domestic abuse affects every community in Bury, but local factors can influence how abuse is experienced, identified and responded to.

Diverse Communities

- Large Jewish, Muslim and South Asian communities highlight the importance of culturally competent engagement, trusted pathways and accessible support.

Neighbourhood Inequality

- Levels of deprivation, transport access and available community assets differ significantly across the borough, influencing how residents access support.

Older Victims

- Local reviews highlight the importance of recognising older victims, who may face additional barriers to seeking support.

Co-occurring Needs

- Domestic abuse frequently overlaps with mental health and substance use, requiring coordinated, trauma informed responses across services.

Local Context: Current Offer

In Bury, we are working towards a “no wrong door” approach. Through neighbourhood working, universal services, Live Well and a coordinated partnership response, we aim to ensure residents can access the right support, at the right time, regardless of where they first seek help.

NOTICE



Prevention, awareness, and healthy relationship messaging delivered through schools, neighbourhoods and local partners.

SUPPORT



Practical, emotional and advocacy support to help people understand their options, access services and reduce isolation.

PROTECT



Safeguarding, risk management, safety planning and accommodation to reduce harm and increase safety.

RECOVER



Trauma-informed support that promotes wellbeing, resilience and long-term recovery for adults, children and families in Bury.

CHANGE



Interventions that address harmful behaviours, promote accountability and reduce repeat harm.

Local Context: Neighbourhoods



- Highest average income
- Oldest population profile (43.8% over 50)
- Low reported DA incidents but 2 DARDRs; suggesting under-reporting and possible professional assumptions around older victims



- Increased level of deprivation
- Most diverse neighbourhood
  - Young transient population
  - 28% Muslim
  - 13.9% born in Middle East/Asia
- Language and cultural awareness barriers to reporting
- Highest recorded domestic abuse incidents and DARDRs



- Increased level of deprivation
- Highest 'trio of vulnerability' needs present:
  - Drug/alcohol and mental health
- Achieve recovery services relocated here



- Richer in community assets (sports, faith, social hubs)
- Large Jewish community including Haredi and Orthodox families
- Cultural awareness and targeted communication affect reach of DA messaging



- Joint second highest DARDR count
- Vast household average income variation (£14k gap, Pilkington Park vs Besses)
- Access to some services may require travel beyond the immediate neighbourhood
- New community investment provides opportunities to strengthen local support

Local Context: LET's Do It

LET'S do it!
Shared success across Bury

L E T S

LOCAL
(neighbourhood-based, intelligence-led multi-agency working)

ENTERPRISING
(creative co-delivery, adapting 'what works' to our context)

TOGETHER
(survivor and child voice shaping our work)

STRENGTHS-based
(Building on the strengths of our residents, communities and local services)

Neighbourhood working enables partners to understand the strengths, needs and risks within our communities, and coordinate earlier intervention and support where it is most needed. Neighbourhood working is led by:

- Public Service Leadership Teams (PSLTs)
- Greater Manchester Police (GMP)
- Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue
- Integrated Health & Care Neighbourhood Teams
- Housing
- Children's Services; Family Help & Hubs
- All year education settings
- Social Prescribers
- Universal community services



Related Bury strategies can be found in the appendix.

Local Context: Data

Analysis of local data, review learning and lived experience helps us understand where harm is occurring, who is most affected and where partnership effort should be focused.

ADULTS

- 2,798 domestic abuse offences were recorded April 2025-March 2026.
- 52% of GMP callouts relate to repeat incidents and 522 addresses experienced two or more offences within a 12-month period.
- Domestic abuse remains closely linked to mental health (50%) and substance use (25%) needs.
- MARAC demand remains consistent, demonstrating ongoing levels of high-risk domestic abuse.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

- Average monthly DA incidents involving a child reduced from 161 in 2021 to 77.3 in 2026.
- Bury recorded 2,164 Operation Encompass notifications in 2025.
- Monthly domestic abuse offences involving under-18s remain consistently recorded across Bury.
- 61% of referrals to Bury's commissioned domestic abuse services involved children.

HOW THIS SHAPED OUR PRIORITIES



Priority 1: Earlier intervention remains essential.

Priority 2: Victims and survivors require accessible support and recovery pathways.

Priority 3: Children remain a strategic priority.

Priority 4: Repeat harm, perpetrator management and cumulative risk require continued focus.

Priority 5: Strong governance, learning and performance remain critical.

What informed the strategy?

Lived experience, partner engagement, local data and learning from reviews have shaped this strategy and its priorities.



Survivors told us...

Services can feel complex to navigate.



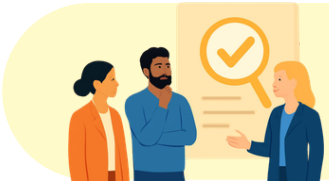
Children and young people told us...

They want to be heard and involved.



Partners told us...

Earlier intervention is needed.



Reviews told us...

Formal and local reviews should drive improvement.



Workforce confidence varies.



Pathways can be clearer.

Our Priorities

PREVENTION & EARLY INTERVENTION	VICTIMS, SURVIVORS & COMMUNITIES	CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE	PERPETRATORS & RISK MANAGEMENT	LEADERSHIP, LEARNING & ACCOUNTABILITY
Prevent abuse early and promote healthy relationships	Providing the right support, at the right time	Ensuring children are seen, heard, supported and safe	Reduce harm and hold perpetrators to account	Learn, improve and deliver better outcomes

Priority 1: Prevention & Early Intervention

WHY THIS MATTERS

Domestic abuse often escalates over time. Promoting healthy relationships, helping residents recognise abuse and coercive control, and improving access to support enables earlier intervention and helps prevent harm from becoming entrenched. Prevention is a shared responsibility across families, communities and public services.

WHY THIS MATTERS IN BURY

Neighbourhood intelligence highlights differing levels of domestic abuse, barriers to reporting and wider vulnerabilities across Bury. Place-based approaches, universal services, PSLTs, Live Well and neighbourhood teams provide opportunities to target prevention activity where it is most needed.

WHAT WE'VE LEARNED



Community awareness

Neighbourhood insight highlights differing barriers to reporting, awareness and access to support across Bury's communities.

Professional awareness

Opportunities to identify abuse exist across health, housing, schools, community services and neighbourhood teams.

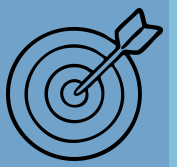




Safeguarding learning

Learning from our safeguarding reviews highlights the importance of earlier intervention, professional curiosity and recognition of cumulative risk.

OUR COMMITMENT



We will:

- Promote understanding of healthy relationships and challenge abusive behaviours.
- Target awareness activity using local insight and review learning
- Develop workforce confidence through training and Making Every Contact Count approaches
- Strengthen prevention through PSLTs, neighbourhood teams, universal services, Live Well and wider whole-family approaches
- Improve early intervention pathways, including Project CARA
- Work with communities, schools and faith groups through co-production, Standing Together and neighbourhood approaches



Our approach aligns with GMP's 4P model: Prevent, Protect, Prepare and Pursue.

Priority 2: Victims, Survivors & Communities

WHY THIS MATTERS

Domestic abuse can significantly affect safety, wellbeing, housing, finances, and physical and mental health. It is often linked to wider recovery needs relating to trauma, substance use and mental health. Survivors often tell us that support can be difficult to navigate, particularly where multiple needs exist.

WHY THIS MATTERS IN BURY

Bury's diverse communities, neighbourhoods and differing levels of deprivation can create varying barriers to seeking help and accessing support. Housing, community provision and partnership working play a key role in supporting safety, recovery and wellbeing.

WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

Accommodation
Survivors benefit from a range of accommodation options, including support to remain safely at home where appropriate, alongside access to refuge and move-on support.

Accessibility
Some groups face additional barriers to support, including older people, cultural communities, those affected by So-Called Honour Based Abuse or Forced Marriage, people with NRPF, and those with multiple needs.

Community Support
Early access to local support improves safety, recovery, wellbeing and long-term outcomes.

OUR COMMITMENT

We will:

- Ensure survivors can access the right support at the right time
- Improve pathways into and through safe accommodation
- Strengthen Bury Housing's role in prevention and safeguarding
- Improve access for hidden and marginalised victims; focusing on high prevalence areas such as Bury East
- Develop community-based support that reflects Bury's communities, neighbourhoods and family-led approaches
- Work with partners, including the Bury Strategic Housing Group, to reduce barriers to support

Priority 3: Children & Young People

WHY THIS MATTERS IN BURY

Family Safeguarding models strengthen early intervention, whole-family support and outcomes for children affected by domestic abuse. In Bury, children will be seen, heard and supported in their own right. Support for parents, carers and wider family networks will be provided where appropriate to improve outcomes for children.

WHAT WE'VE LEARNED



Children's Voice
Children's experiences are not always consistently captured or used to inform their support plans and overall service development.

Earlier Intervention
National reviews highlight the need for earlier identification and more joined-up responses.





Simpler Pathways
Children and families can experience multiple referral routes and varying thresholds for support.

OUR COMMITMENT



We will:

- Recognise children as victims in their own right
- Strengthen children's voice and co-production; aligned to Bury's Families First approach
- Improve early identification and intervention
- Further embed domestic abuse within Family Safeguarding and multi-agency responses
- Strengthen Operation Encompass implementation, learning and impact.
- Promote healthy relationships through schools and community settings
- Improve outcomes for unborn children, babies, and families affected by domestic abuse



Our approach aligns with Bury's whole-family approach, particularly Families First and the Family Safeguarding Model, recognising children as victims in their own right and supporting earlier intervention for families.

Priority 4: Perpetrators & Risk Management

WHY THIS MATTERS

Effective domestic abuse responses require support for victims alongside robust action to address the behaviour of those who cause harm. Earlier intervention, behaviour change opportunities and effective risk management can reduce repeat victimisation and prevent escalation.

WHY THIS MATTERS IN BURY

Learning from recent domestic abuse related reviews has highlighted the importance of earlier intervention with those causing harm, alongside stronger management of repeat victimisation and cumulative risk.

WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

Repeat Harm
A small number of perpetrators are responsible for a disproportionate amount of harm.

Earlier Intervention
Earlier intervention opportunities exist through CARA, proactive identification and preventative approaches.

Behaviour Change
Different people require different interventions depending on risk, readiness and need.

Risk Management
Strong multi-agency management is essential for high-harm and repeat perpetrators.

OUR COMMITMENT

We will:

- Strengthen management of high-harm and repeat perpetrators
- Increase access and learning around behaviour change interventions; better utilising DAPOs, MATAC, MAPPA and other disruption tools
- Develop pathways for those not yet ready for intensive programmes
- Improve professional confidence in perpetrator engagement and risk management
- Strengthen responses to harmful behaviour, including CAPVA
- Work with partners to reduce repeat victimisation

Priority 5: Leadership, Learning & Accountability

WHY THIS MATTERS

Effective domestic abuse responses require strong leadership, meaningful partnership working, and a commitment to learning from local experience and national evidence. By listening to victims, analysing data, and acting on review findings, we can continuously improve our response and deliver better outcomes for residents.

WHY THIS MATTERS IN BURY

Local safeguarding reviews continue to identify recurring themes including professional curiosity, cumulative risk, information sharing and understanding the needs of victims, children and families

WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

Insight
Better use of data and shared information helps identify repeat victims, repeat perpetrators and emerging risks.

Voice
Lived experience must shape decision-making, service design and improvement.

Learning
Formal and local safeguarding reviews provide vital opportunities to identify improvements.

Accountability
Strong governance ensures collective ownership across the partnership.

OUR COMMITMENT

We will:

- Embed learning from DARDRs, SARs and wider safeguarding reviews.
- Ensure survivor and children's voices influence strategic decisions
- Strengthen domestic abuse performance and data.
- Develop a confident workforce through continuous learning
- Improve partnership accountability through the Bury DAPB and CSP.
- Use evidence and local insight to inform commissioning, service improvement and investment.
- Work collaboratively across safeguarding, community safety and regional partnerships

Together these elements ensure Bury's response remains informed, evidence-led and accountable.

What does success look like by 2028?

LIVED EXPERIENCE

Victim, survivor and children's voices

GOVERNANCE & ASSURANCE

Domestic Abuse Partnership Board and partnership governance

REVIEW LEARNING

Domestic abuse related deaths, audits and safeguarding reviews

DATA

Performance and outcome information

We will know this strategy is making a difference when



- More People Access Support
- More Children Are Seen, Heard & Supported
- More Perpetrators Engage & Reduce Harm
- More Professionals Feel Confident Responding
- Fewer People Experience Repeat Harm

Support is Available

This strategy is shaped by the experiences of those whose lives have been affected by domestic abuse.

We recognise the victims, survivors, children, families and communities who have experienced harm, and those whose lives have been lost.

Their experiences continue to inform our learning, strengthen our response and drive our commitment to creating a safer Bury for everyone.

If you, or someone you know, is experiencing domestic abuse, support is available:

- Bury Directory (https://www.theburydirectory.co.uk)
- National Domestic Abuse Helpline 24/7: 0808 2000 247
- Respect's Helpline (for those concerned about their behaviour): 0808 802 4040



In an emergency - call 999

Glossary

CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
CAPVA	Child and Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse
CARA	Cautioning and Relationship Abuse Programme
CHIDVA	Children's Independent Domestic Violence Advocate
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
CYP	Children and Young People
DA	Domestic Abuse
DAPB	Domestic Abuse Partnership Board
DAPO	Domestic Abuse Protection Orders
DARA+	Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment Plus
DARDR	Domestic Abuse Related Death Review
DASH	Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment
DVDS	Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (Clare's Law)
DVPN	Domestic Violence Protection Notice
FM	Forced Marriage

FSM	Family Safeguarding Model
GM	Greater Manchester
GMP	Greater Manchester Police
HBVA	Honour-Based Violence and Abuse
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advocate
Live Well	Greater Manchester's neighbourhood-based approach to prevention, wellbeing and community support
MAPPA	Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements
MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
MATAC	Multi-Agency Tasking And Coordination
NRPF	No Recourse to Public Funds
PSHE	Personal, Social, Health, and Economic
PSLT	Public Service Leadership Team
SAR	Safeguarding Adult Review
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
VCFSE	Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (Sector)

Appendix 1: Local Strategic Alignment

Delivery and Governance

The commitments within this strategy are supported by an accompanying partnership Delivery Plan. The Delivery Plan is an internal working document setting out the actions, responsibilities and timescales required to deliver the strategy. It will be reviewed throughout the lifetime of the strategy by the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board, alongside performance information, lived experience and learning from reviews, to monitor progress and inform continuous improvement.

Bury Domestic Abuse Partnership Board

Domestic abuse intersects with a number of wider safeguarding, wellbeing and community safety priorities. The DAPB works alongside local partnerships to align activity, share learning and avoid duplication wherever possible. This strategy aligns with a number of local strategic priorities and plans, including:

- Community Safety Partnership Strategy
- Housing Strategy
- Homelessness Strategy
- Youth Justice Plan
- Bury Safeguarding Partnership Strategy
- Suicide Prevention Strategy & Action Plan
- Drug & Alcohol Strategy
- Mental Health Strategy
- Women & Girls Commission

The latest versions of these documents can be accessed via the Bury Council website and partner organisation websites.

Appendix 2: Regional Strategic Alignment



Greater Manchester's coordinated response sits within GMCA's Police and Crime Plan (2024–2029); which commits to improving the police response to DA, rape and serious sexual assault, with specific equality actions on outcomes, charge rates and workforce training. DA sits explicitly within Priorities 2, 7, 8 and 9 of that plan.

Bury is actively engaged across the region, including through:

- The GM DA Co-ordinators Network; encouraging shared learning and influencing regional commissioning (e.g. male refuge provision, regional LGBT IDVA)
- GM workstream links to the Alcohol Harm Alliance and Suicide Prevention workstream
- GM Safeguarding Hub training and campaigns (e.g. #isthisok?)
- Sub-regional cross-border work, e.g. joint working with Salford and Manchester on Jewish communities