

Leicester Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment Summary 2025



Under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, tier one authorities (like Leicester) must conduct a local needs assessment to determine the level of need for support within relevant safe accommodation in their area.

The latest Leicester domestic abuse needs assessment (2025) looked at data from the first three years of the Act.

The Domestic Abuse Locality Partnership Board (The Board) should consider the scale of the need and the nature of the needs for support for all victims including their children and those that come from out of area. The Board should consider victim’s journeys, and whether they are able to access the support they need.

Police recorded domestic abuse offences and incidents, Leicester 2018-2024



Domestic abuse reports to local police have risen over the last five years. This can indicate a growing confidence in reporting and better recording practices. It might indicate high levels of repeat victimisation and wide prevalence of domestic abuse. As a city, Leicester has a relatively young population, which is associated with a higher rate of reported domestic abuse.

Violent crime and domestic abuse in Leicester 2019-2024

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
All violent crime	14,449	19,365	14,914
Non-domestic abuse related violent crime	9,659	13,364	10,240
Domestic abuse related violent crime	4,790	6,001	4,674
Proportion	33%	31%	31%

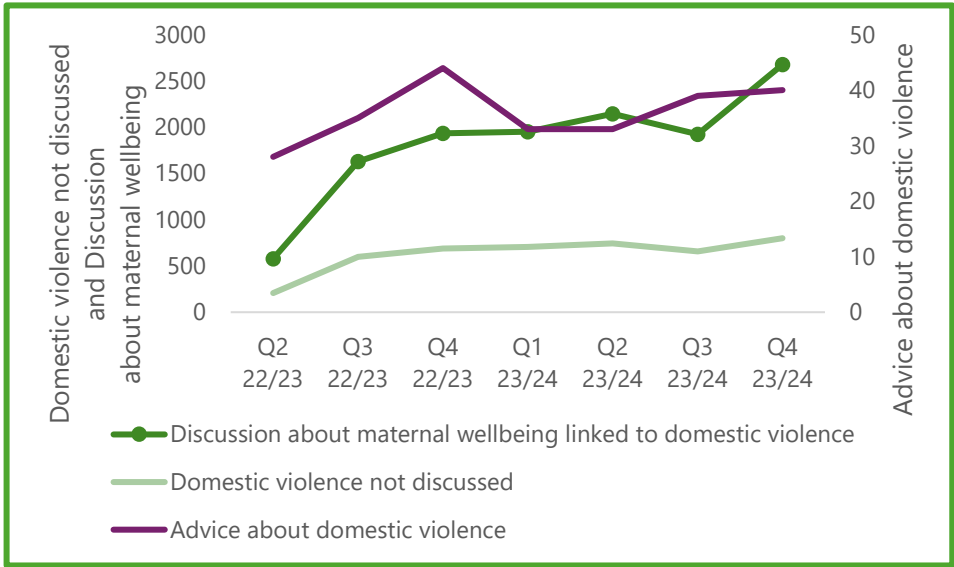
Domestic abuse consistently represents over 30% of the violent crime taking place in Leicester. There have been 24 domestic homicide reviews opened in Leicester since such reviews became a statutory duty in 2011, following a domestic abuse related death.

Homelessness and domestic abuse in Leicester 2021-2024

Declarations	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Singles	1,598	1,565	1,630
Singles DV	121	83	111
SING DV %	8%	5%	7%
Families	1,137	1,191	1,229
Families DV	125	130	107
FAM DV %	11%	11%	9%
All HDECs	2,735	2,756	2,859
All DV	246	213	218
TOTAL DV %	9%	8%	8%

On average, 226 homeless declarations each year relate to domestic abuse. This reflects 8% of demand into homelessness. Domestic abuse remains one of the top reasons for homelessness in Leicester.

Healthy Together discussions in Leicester 2022-24

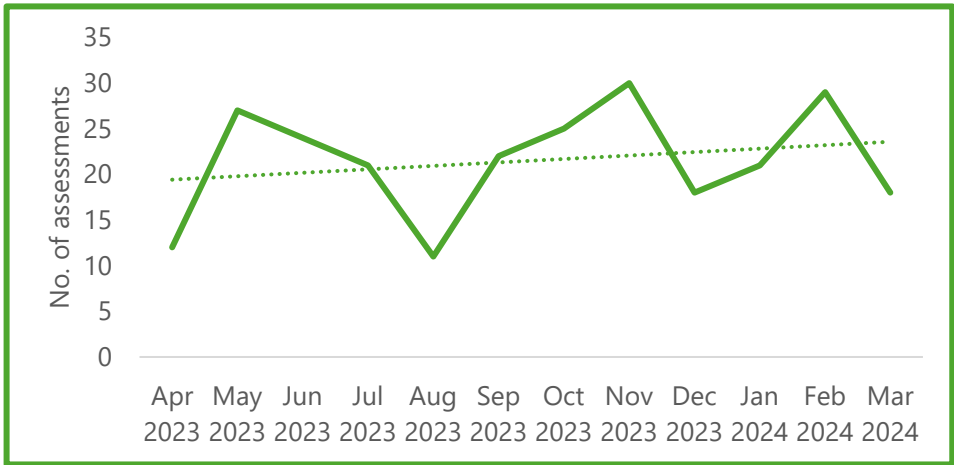


Data from Leicestershire Partnership Trust (LPT) services for pregnant women shows growing conversations about domestic abuse and a slight increase over time in advice being given around domestic abuse.

Around 10% of victim-survivors being supported by commissioned support services were pregnant or had given birth in the last 12 months. The number of women supported by commissioned domestic abuse services is not at the levels known to LPT.

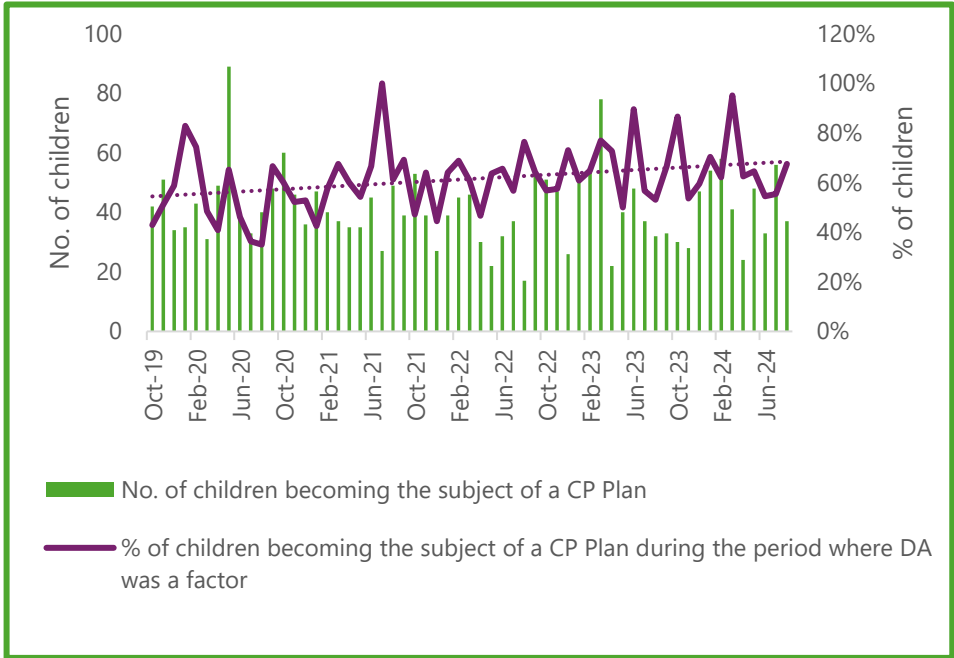
52% of victim-survivors referred to local safe accommodation had no children with them.

Leicester Children’s Social Care Assessments where domestic abuse was recorded as a factor 2023-24



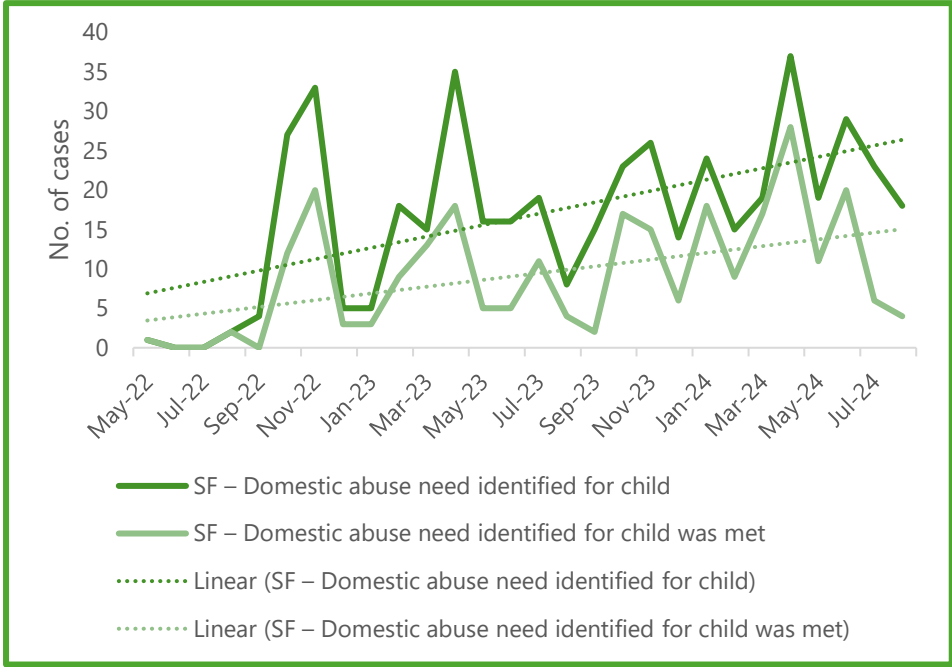
40% of all children’s social care assessments feature domestic abuse and the numbers slightly increased through 2023-24. The proportion of contacts into children’s social care and early help related to domestic abuse which result in no further action has also increased during this period.

Leicester children becoming subject to a child protection plan where domestic abuse was a factor 2019-2024



Many children going on to child protection plans are living with domestic abuse and the proportion is growing over time. Domestic abuse is a factor recorded in many child protection re-registrations (this could be with the same or a new perpetrator of abuse).

Leicester Supporting Families Domestic Abuse Need 2022-24



The number of families identified locally as having multiple needs, of which domestic abuse is one, is growing over time, as is evidence of those needs being met. There have been changes in recording practices over this period.

Comparator city individuals supported in domestic abuse safe accommodation services 2023-24 ¹

	Female adults	Male adults	Children	Total individuals supported	Total Per 10,000
Luton	58	0	19	77	3.4
Nottingham	459	0	91	550	17
Coventry	431	6	145	582	16.9
Leicester	363	2	345	710	19.3
Birmingham	945	14	1,498	2,460	1.5
Bradford	414	262	382	1,062	19.4

Data on the safe accommodation related support duty is published annually by the MHCLG. There are vast differences across local authorities, potentially connected to the data set being introduced in 2021. Leicester is generally ‘mid-table’ when compared to similar local authorities, with a police reporting rate per 1,000 population of 22.2. Leicester has the highest rate of individuals supported per 10,000 population (based on the 2023-24 data set and 2021 census).

Leicester domestic abuse victim-survivor ethnicity across commissioned services 2022-24, compared to latest Census data

ETHNICITY (condensed categories)	2021 Census	2023-24 Commissioned Support Proportion	Direction of travel since 2022	2023-24 Difference to Census
Asian or Asian British	43.4%	33.8%	Up	-9.6%
Black or Black British:	7.7%	7.0%	Down	-0.7%
Mixed Race	3.8%	5.9%	Up	2.1%
Other Ethnic Group:	4.1%	4.3%	Up	0.2%
White:	40.6%	46.8%	Down	6.2%
TOTAL BME	59.0%	57.0%	Up	-2.0%
TOTAL WHITE BRITISH	33.2%	40.8%	Down	7.6%

The commissioned support services reflect a population very close the local census and what would be expected when considering national prevalence data for domestic abuse, which affects all communities and all demographics, evidencing great reach. Younger populations are expected to experience higher levels of domestic abuse, although there remains a risk that for older adults, domestic abuse is not recognised. There is evidence of both men and women accessing support locally, and Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual victim-survivors are reflected at the recommended² levels.

¹ Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/support-in-domestic-abuse-safe-accommodation-2023-to-2024>

Recording of Leicester domestic abuse victim-survivor disability across commissioned services 2022-24

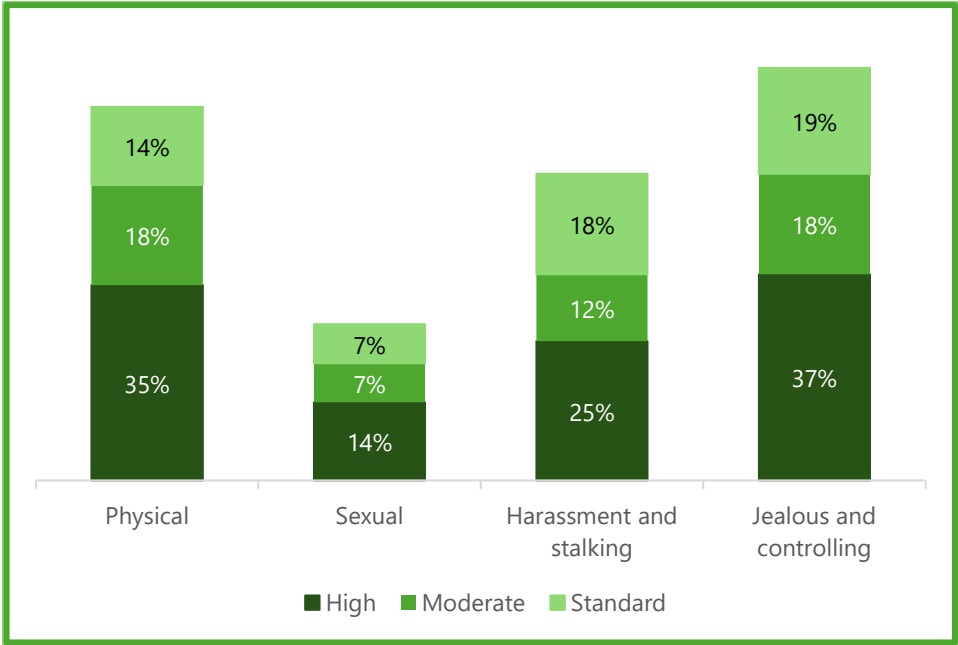
Disability	Total
Number of adults recorded as disabled	1,252
Adults with no disability	910
Total number of adults	2,162
Percentage identified as disabled	58%

Disability is at higher levels than the local census and examples provided showed the range of impairments victim-survivors are living with, in many instances as an impact of the domestic abuse they have experienced.

‘Client was beaten so badly she was put into an induced coma and now has to use a walking frame.’

‘Person of Concern pushed her to the wall till she fell ... which made her lose her complete mobility and now walks with a stick.’

Leicester domestic abuse adult victim abuse profile at intake year ending March 2024



The abuse profile for Leicester domestic abuse victim-survivors shows higher proportions of high jealous and controlling and physical abuse when compared to the national Insights³ data set. This is likely to impact on recovery and support needs.

Length of stay in Leicester refuges 2023-24, measured at exit

	Refuge	% of total
0-1 month	12	19%
1 to < 3 months	15	23%
3 to < 6 months	11	17%
6 to < 12 months	15	23%
12 to < 24 months	11	17%

Timely move on from safe accommodation in Leicester remains a challenge, exacerbated by the national housing shortage and for some victim-survivors, a complex immigration status. There has been positive progress through the introduction of new ways of working between homelessness and the commissioned support providers, and 59% of stays were less than six months in 2023-24.

Numbers of Leicester refuge referrals unable to be accommodated due to lack of suitable space 2022-24

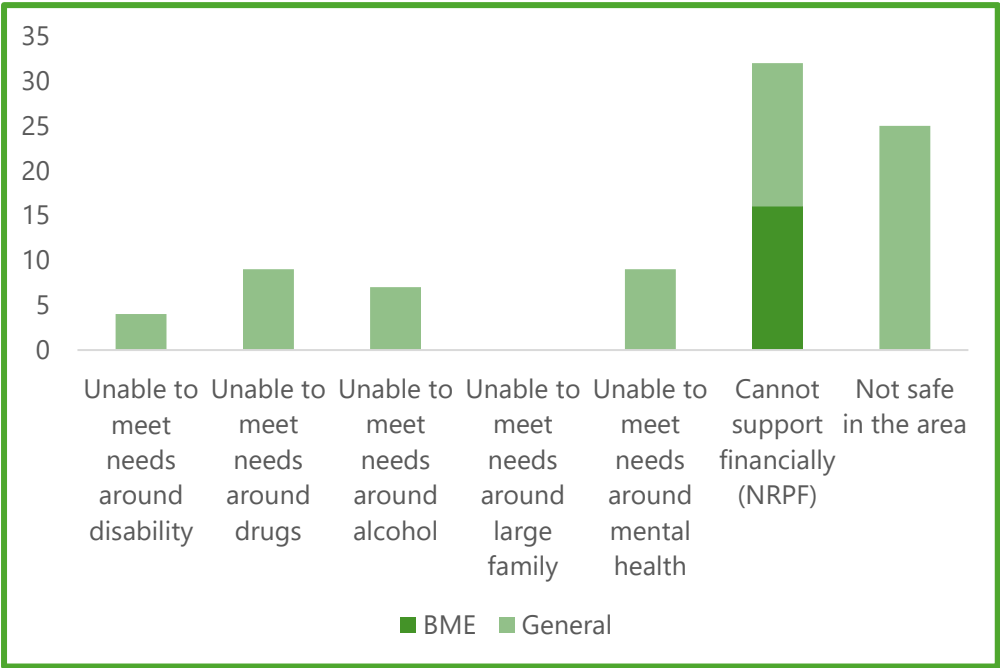
Referrals	2022-23			2023-24		
	General Refuge	BME Refuge	Total	General Refuge	BME Refuge	Total
	139	111	250	125	156	281

² Safe Lives MARAC data recommendations

³ Our insights system and data - SafeLives

Despite the high numbers of recorded need for the available safe accommodation, there were higher numbers of vacancies in the commissioned accommodation than in previous years, with victim-survivors often declining the offer of safe accommodation, sometimes as they had another offer at the same time out of area, or due to the room not being appropriate to their health needs.

Reasons a client was unable to be accommodated in Leicester commissioned safe accommodation 2023-24 ('no available accommodation' not included)



The Board reviews annually all circumstances that a victim-survivor could not be accommodated due to their need, to inform changes in the local response. The most common reason victim-survivors could not be accommodated was that they had no recourse to public funds (NRPF). Many victim-survivors with NRPF do move in successfully to safe accommodation, but this remains a significant barrier locally.

Leicester commissioned Children, Young People, and Families Service child impact surveys for under 11s

Evaluation from under 11s	2022-24
I feel safe	93%
I can have fun	93%
It has been helpful to me	91%
I can talk freely	87%
It has made life better	83%
I feel listened to	90%

Examples of feedback from Leicester domestic abuse victim-survivors and local practitioners:

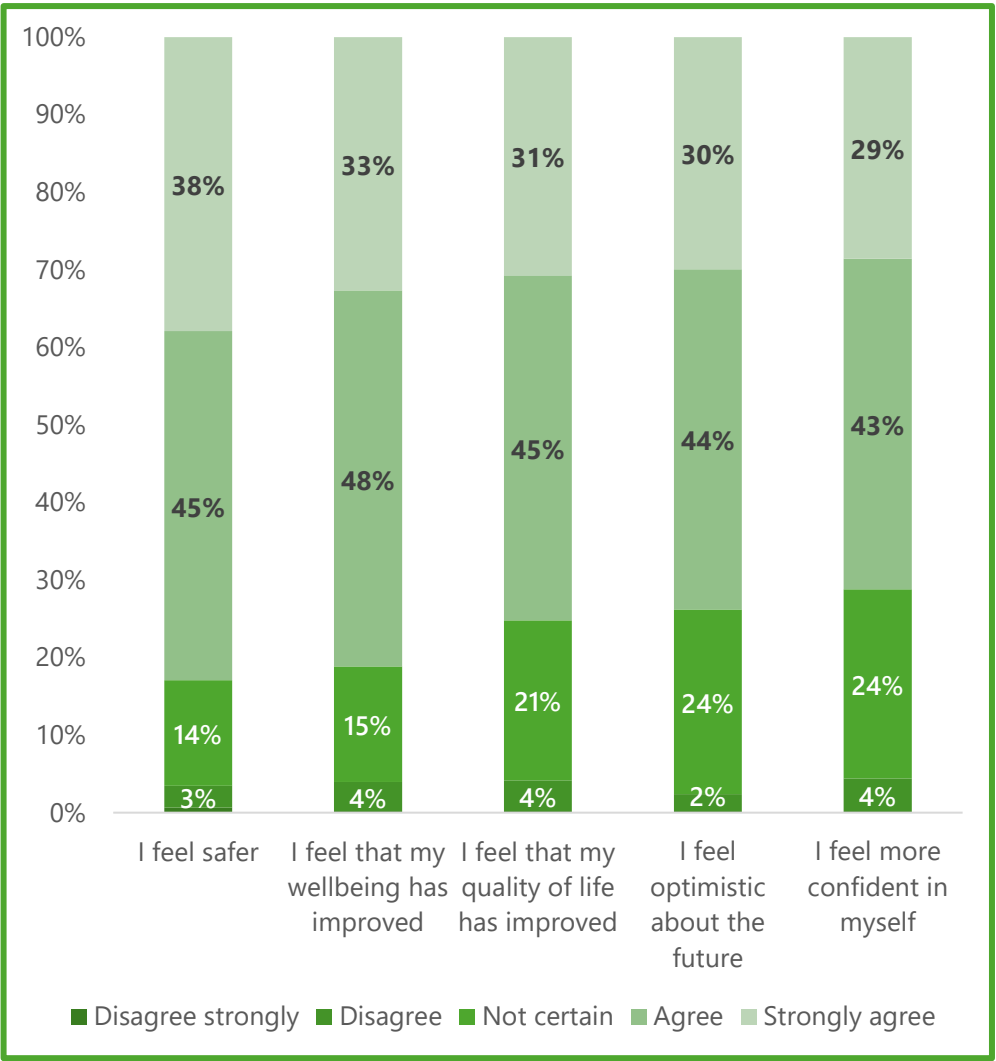
"Service was very good. It has opened my eyes in regards of the impact of domestic violence on children."

"Children were listened to, and at the forefront of the interventions, with caring understanding staff."

"I believe you have to have a passion to work with BME women and children fleeing DA. I love working at Panahghar, I am very proud of the service we deliver together, we work with the service user to tailor our support around the service user's needs, we adapt our service to meet their needs."

"I was very afraid of coming to the refuge but when I arrived, I was made to feel comfortable and welcome."

Leicester commissioned service victim-survivor outcomes (Insights Data) 2021-24



Examples of local impact for domestic abuse victim-survivors, 2021-24

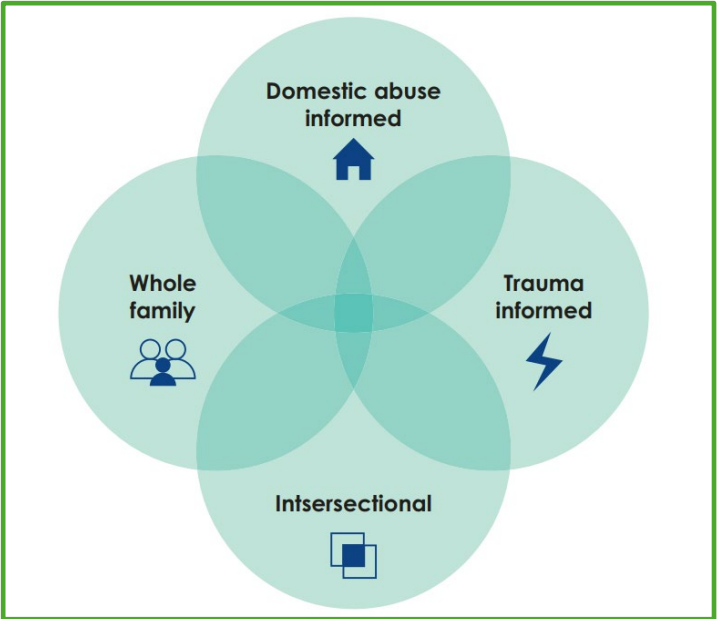
"You always make me feel like I can do **anything** and I can see the light at the end of the tunnel now. You always said I would, but I never believed it" (YP3)

"For the first time after 18 years I spoke to someone where I felt safe. I was able to talk in my language and the staff understood me. I felt like a weight has been lifted off my shoulder. My son said to me Mum I love our new home I feel safe tears come down my eyes." (A5)

"That night when I went to sleep was the first time me and children felt safe, the buiding was secure, nice to see other omen from my community I felt I was not alone." (A2)

"We also have (...) who we have supported to do some volunteering at a care home which is local and this is proving to be a fantastic way of getting independence This has now turned into a paid job which she is thrilled about." (P1)

Four Core Practice Principles that should underpin practice approaches when working with domestic abuse (CSPR Panel 2022 ⁴)



⁴ Multi-agency safeguarding and domestic abuse accessed 23/10/25