

Cherwell District Council
Equality and Climate Impact Assessment
Cherwell District Council Domestic Abuse Policy

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Section 1: Summary details

Directorate and Service Area	Wellbeing and Housing – Housing Services
What is being assessed (e.g. name of policy, procedure, project, service or proposed service change).	Cherwell District Council Domestic Abuse Policy
Is this a new or existing function or policy?	New policy to cover existing service function
Summary of assessment Briefly summarise the policy or proposed service change. Summarise possible impacts. Does the proposal bias, discriminate or unfairly disadvantage individuals or groups within the community? (following completion of the assessment).	<p>The Cherwell District Council domestic abuse policy aims to ensure that residents affected by domestic abuse and who approach the Council for support and advice are supported in a manner that is sensitive and non-judgemental.</p> <p>It outlines the services that Council provides and what support victim/survivors can expect. As well as how the Council will involve and be involved in multi agency partnership working.</p> <p>Where domestic abuse is linked to housing and the support the Council provides, the prioritisation of different households is outlined with legislation regarding priority need and additional support provided to applicants that are fleeing domestic abuse</p>
Completed By	Richard Smith
Authorised By	Nicola Riley
Date of Assessment	August 2025

Section 2: Detail of proposal

<p>Context / Background</p> <p>Briefly summarise the background to the policy or proposed service change, including reasons for any changes from previous versions.</p>	<p>The Council has an important role in ensuring that victim/survivors of domestic abuse receive appropriate support. This is both in its role as a statutory agency and housing authority within multi agency arrangements such as MARAC, within its role as part of the Community Safety Partnership, its statutory role within safeguarding adults and children as well as its statutory duties to provide housing advice and support, temporary accommodation where appropriate and provide access to permanent housing options.</p> <p>The policy brings together these different roles and responsibilities into one policy document.</p>
<p>Proposals</p> <p>Explain the detail of the proposals, including why this has been decided as the best course of action.</p>	<p>A policy document is considered prudent. It provides an overview and provide clarity on the Council's approach and its commitment to support victim/survivors and work with partners to achieve better outcomes</p>
<p>Evidence / Intelligence</p> <p>List and explain any data, consultation outcomes, research findings, feedback from service users and stakeholders etc, that supports your proposals and can help to inform the judgements you make about potential impact on</p>	<p>Cherwell District Council has a higher prevalence of domestic abuse prevalence compared to the Oxfordshire average.</p> <p>Between April and June 25, as a snapshot, Cherwell had the highest rate across the following metrics when compared with other districts and Oxford City.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New referrals to MARACs • Police recorded occurrences of Domestic Abuse • Children (social care cases) assessed with a Domestic Abuse risk factor

<p>different individuals, communities or groups and our ability to deliver our climate commitments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victim/survivors of Domestic Abuse in contact with Drug and Alcohol services. <p>Domestic abuse approaches within the housing service are also rising. In 24/25, the Council recorded 163 instances of victim/survivors requesting homelessness assistance because of domestic abuse, this was a significant increase on the year before. Clients fleeing domestic abuse make up around 10% of the households within temporary accommodation, which is outside those housed through the domestic abuse pathways.</p>
<p>Alternatives considered / rejected</p> <p>Summarise any other approaches that have been considered in developing the policy or proposed service change, and the reasons why these were not adopted. This could include reasons why doing nothing is not an option.</p>	<p>The following alternative options have been identified and rejected for the reasons as set out below.</p> <p>Not to bring forward a Domestic Abuse Policy. The Council has statutory duties in delivering housing services and participating in multi-agency arrangements regarding victim and perpetrator management, however, there are no statutory duties to have a domestic abuse policy. The Council is aiming to achieve an accreditation in recognition of its practice and focus on this area, and a policy is an important part of achieving this. This option is therefore rejected.</p>

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Protected Characteristics

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Protected Characteristic	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of Impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner* (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	None	N/A	N/A
Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		None	N/A	N/A
Gender Reassignment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Marriage & Civil Partnership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pregnancy & Maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Households that are pregnant are classed as priority need and are therefore provided with temporary accommodation when the approach the Council in housing crisis.	N/A	Housing Options Manager	Annual monitoring
Race	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Domestic Abuse is predominantly an offence committed by males against females.	Whilst these are national and societal trends, the support provided through the policy will hopefully lead to increases of reporting and increasing of support being accessed, which in turn should achieve better outcomes.	Housing Options Manager	Annual monitoring
Sexual Orientation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Religion or Belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	There are some cultural barriers that could make reporting and support more difficult	The monitoring of all characteristics are monitored when applicants apply for housing or request the support of the housing team. Any patterns or under-reporting can therefore be identified.	Housing Options Manager	Annual monitoring

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Community Impacts

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Additional community impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner (* Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Rural communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Armed Forces	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	None	N/A	N/A
Carers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	None	N/A	N/A
Areas of deprivation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Wider Impacts

Additional Wider Impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of Impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner* (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Other Council Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Providers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Increased reporting and awareness could have an associated impact on providers of services.	Existing partnership working and contract monitoring is in place. Issues will be raised accordingly through those mechanisms	Head of Housing	Annual monitoring
Social Value ¹	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

¹ If the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 applies to this proposal, please summarise here how you have considered how the contract might improve the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the relevant area

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Climate Change Impacts

OCC and CDC aim to be carbon neutral by 2030. How will your proposal affect our ability to reduce carbon emissions related to

Climate change impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner (* Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Energy use in our buildings or highways	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Our fleet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Staff travel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Purchased services and products (including construction)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Maintained schools	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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We are also committed to enable Cherwell to become carbon neutral by 2030 and Oxfordshire by 2050. How will your proposal affect our ability to:

Climate change impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Enable carbon emissions reduction at district/county level?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Section 4: Review

Where bias, negative impact or disadvantage is identified, the proposal and/or implementation can be adapted or changed; meaning there is a need for regular review. This review may also be needed to reflect additional data and evidence for a fuller assessment (proportionate to the decision in question). Please state the agreed review timescale for the identified impacts of the policy implementation or service change.

Review Date	Annual
Person Responsible for Review	Head of Housing
Authorised By	AD Wellbeing and Housing