



Medway Domestic Abuse Forum

“Domestic Abuse and the ripple effect”

Welcome from the Medway Domestic Abuse Forum

What is the ripple effect?

Presented by Dr Liza Thompson
MDAF Co-chair



Who are SATEDA?

A domestic abuse charity based in Swale and Medway. We provide our clients and community with:

One to one support

Support groups

Youth Services

Counselling

Support to Court service

Volunteering including Project Hope

Advocacy and awareness

www.sateda.org





Economic Abuse

An introduction

30th November 2022

MDAF conference

Tracy Marsh SATEDA

Definition of Economic Abuse

“Economic Abuse is a legally recognized form of Domestic Abuse and it often occurs in the context of Intimate Partner Violence. It involves the control of a partner or ex-partner’s money, finances and things that money can buy, such as clothing, transport, food and a place to live”

Surviving Economic Abuse (survivingeconomicabuse.org)



Why call it Economic Abuse?

- The wording financial abuse can be understood as only to deal with cash and bank accounts, but it doesn't stop there....
- Economic abuse includes anything to do with money that affects your day to day life.
- It involves housing, work, education, isolation, food, clothing, heating, electric, gas, transport.
- It impacts loans, credit ratings, benefits, inheritances. It can involve repeated court cases, ongoing and coerced debt, child maintenance. All aspects of your life whether you are still in the relationship or not. This is why it was so important that the Domestic Abuse Act included Post Separation Abuse.



Why is economic abuse used so often?

- 95% of women who have experienced domestic abuse have experienced financial abuse. No access to money can result in isolation, disruption and no safety.
- People stay longer in abusive relationships if they believe they have nowhere to go or they have no money for a deposit for a new home or if they are worried how they will cope financially. This is being compounded by the current cost of living crisis and can lead to increased or continued risk of emotional and/or physical harm. More than half of women say they had no money so could not leave.
- A way of keeping power and control over your life even when the abuser has left the relationship. If they can blame poverty/economic instability, they can hide the fact that the behaviours are abusive and we blame it too. 1 in 4 women have experienced economic abuse post separation.

*stats from Surviving Economic Abuse



**So....what can
we do and
where can we
get help?**



Support from SATEDA

- Clients that are being supported by SATEDA are invited to attend a session on Economic Abuse where we discuss the ways in which Economic Abuse can be perpetrated and which specialist agencies are available to help.
- SATEDA are also linked with the Lloyds Bank Financial Support Team, through the Lloyds Bank Foundation, which gives our clients direct access to a specialist team who have helped them write off and freeze payments or helped them with refunds where the money has either been claimed fraudulently by their abuser or where they have been coerced into taking out finance.



**Some case studies
following support
from the Lloyds
Bank Financial
Support team**



Case Study 1

WHAT WERE THE TEAM ABLE TO DO TO HELP?

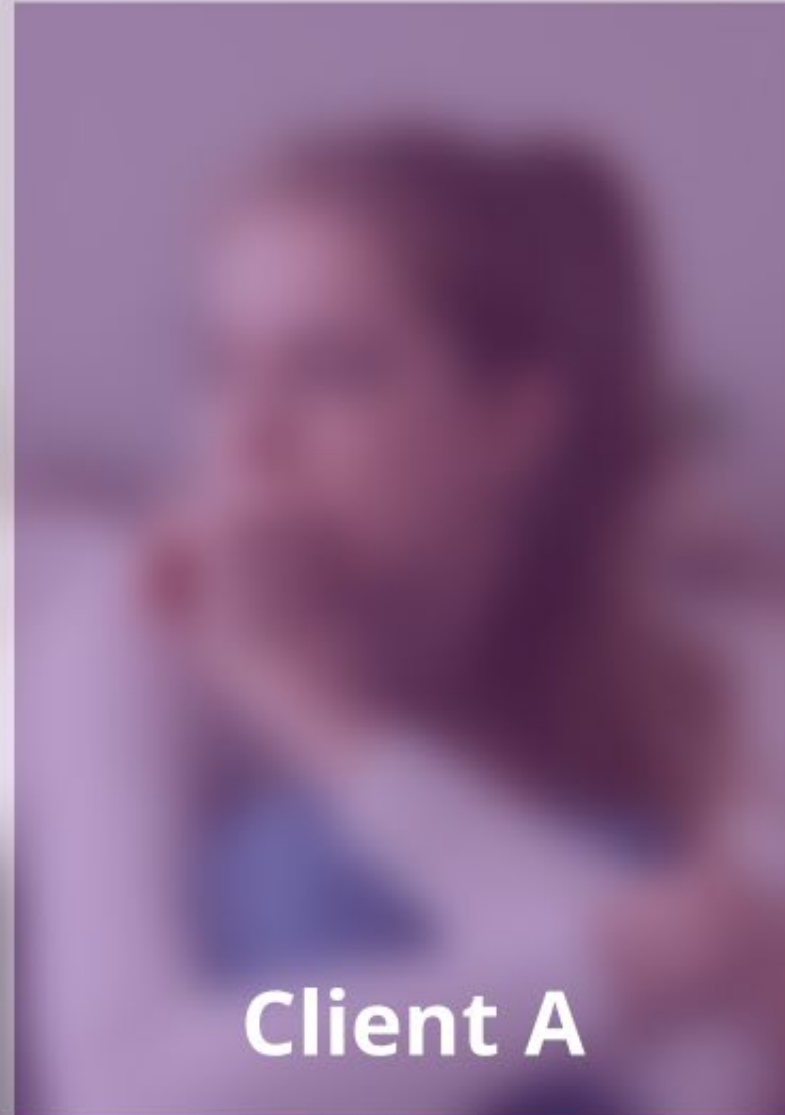
Payments were frozen, interest charges refunded and investigated wiping credit card debt

HOW MUCH MONEY WAS SAVED OR REFUNDED?

£1600

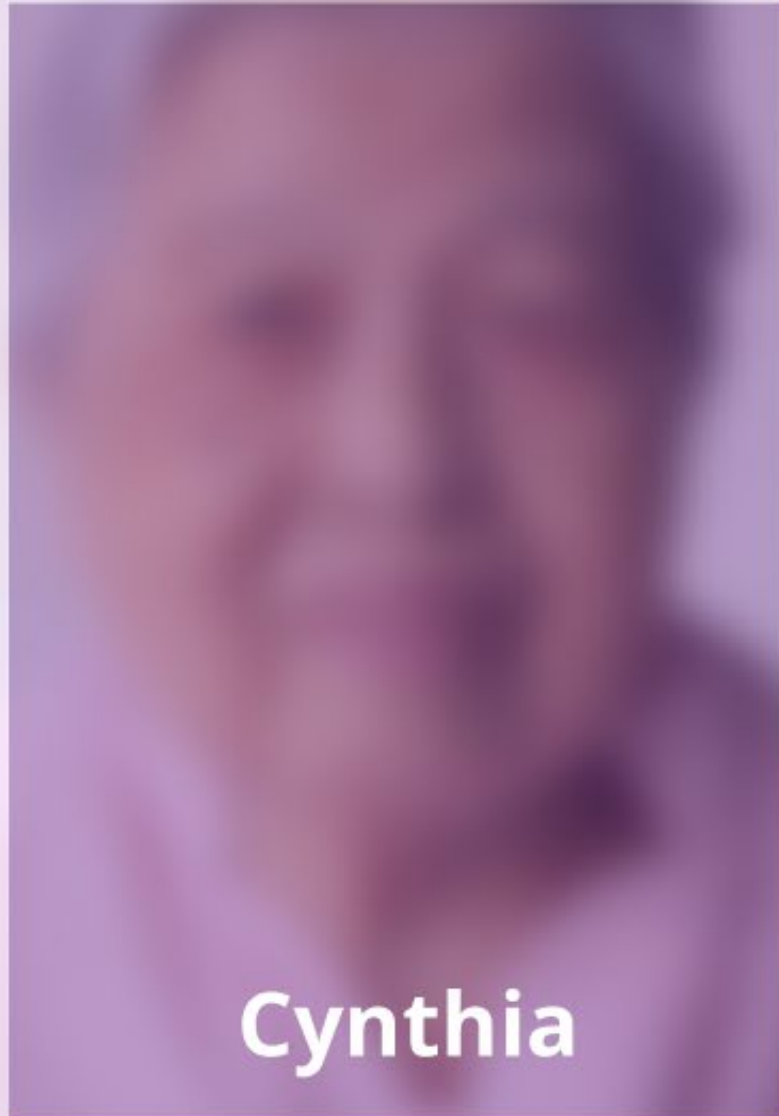
WHAT DIFFERENCE DID IT MAKE TO HER FINANCES, HEALTH AND WELLBEING?

"It has made a huge difference, it has helped me feel better in regards of letting go of my past."



Client A





Cynthia

Case Study 2

WHAT WERE THE TEAM ABLE TO DO TO
HELP?

Financial advice, debt totally wiped off

HOW MUCH MONEY WAS SAVED OR
REFUNDED?

over £8000

WHAT DIFFERENCE DID IT MAKE TO HER
FINANCES, HEALTH AND WELLBEING?

"I feel much better mentally, knowing I
didn't owe that money anymore and I am
much more aware of domestic abuse so I
will never be in debt again."



Case Study 3

WHAT WERE THE TEAM ABLE TO DO TO
HELP?

Cancelled debt she had with them

HOW MUCH MONEY WAS SAVED OR
REFUNDED?

£5316

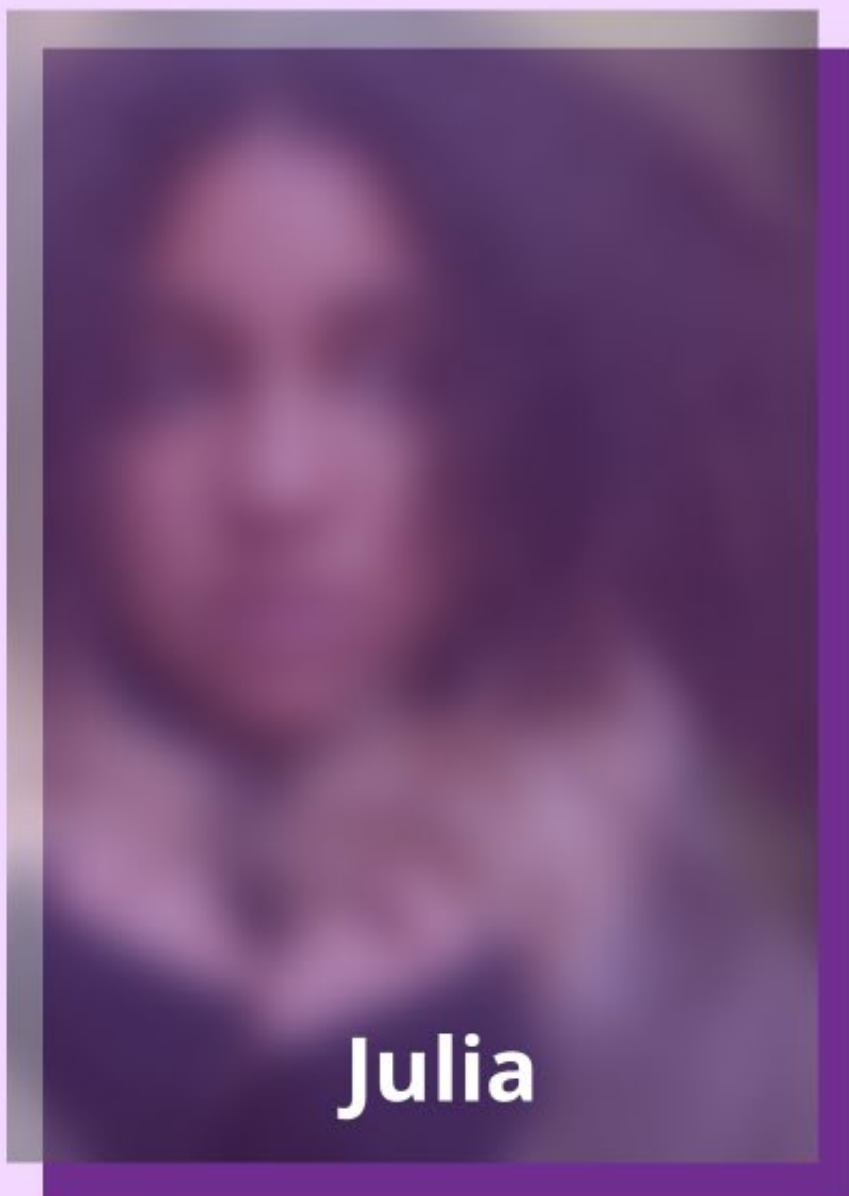
WHAT DIFFERENCE DID IT MAKE TO HER
FINANCES, HEALTH AND WELLBEING?

"When they told me that they were wiping
this debt off, it made me feel relieved to
have that amount cleared."



Donna





Case Study 4

WHAT WERE THE TEAM ABLE TO DO TO HELP?

Froze overdraft charges, cancelled outstanding debt, refunded earlier overdraft charges

HOW MUCH MONEY WAS SAVED OR
REFUNDED?

£10,000

WHAT DIFFERENCE DID IT MAKE TO HER
FINANCES, HEALTH AND WELLBEING?

"It has made a huge difference to my finances. I was paying £250 per month to debt in my name that I was forced to take out to benefit my abuser. Having the financial stress taken away has been a massive help."





Banks and financial institutions...

- Banks now have specialist teams to speak to if you have suffered from economic abuse.
- SATEDA has links with the Lloyds Bank Foundation
- Refuge are linked with Co-op bank
- SafeLives are linked with Natwest
- Surviving Economic Abuse are linked with Lloyds bank and advise the government



Specialist Organisations

SURVIVING

ECONOMIC

A B U S E

- Surviving Economic Abuse is the leading organisation in England for information.
- They have lots of resources available and can sign post to other agencies to look into individual cases.
- www.survivingeconomicabuse.org
- Financial Support Line for Victims of Domestic Abuse 0808 1968 845





Department
for Work &
Pensions

StepChange
Debt Charity



debt support trust



the
MONEY
Charity

RIGHTS of
WOMEN
helping women through the law



TURN2US

EQUIFAX

MONEY
ADVICE TRUST

TransUnion^{tu}

DebtAdvice
Foundation



MoneySavingExpert
Cutting your costs, fighting your corner

SATEDA



Empowering women, ending domestic abuse



Three year accreditation by SafeLives



www.sateda.org
01795 417251

Find us on social media

@satedacharity





What support do we provide?

ONE-TO-ONE SUPPORT

Support through our drop ins, our one stop shop or on the telephone to help you decide what you want to do. We will advise and guide you with your options but never tell you what to do.

SUPPORT 2 COURT

Our team of trained McKenzie Friends can support you through civil court processes. This can be for emergency orders, occupation orders, child contact arrangements and even divorce.

VOLUNTEERING

When you are ready, join us as a volunteer. Our team will continue to support you as you start your new journey, learning skills and gaining experience along the way.

SUPPORT GROUPS

SATEDA have a range of groups to help you along your journey. Designed to empower you, these include Freedom Programme, Power to Change and Own My Life.

COUNSELLING

Using a therapeutic approach we can offer up to 12 sessions with a counsellor at any stage of your healing journey.

YOUNG PEOPLE

Where there are children in the family we can provide specialist support for them, individually and in schools. We know that domestic abuse is a family matter and young people need support too.

PROJECT HOPE

Our letter writing project between SATEDA volunteers and women who are in prison to combat isolation and loneliness.

EMPLOYABILITY PROGRAMME

The Employability Programme invites survivors to undertake a volunteer role within SATEDA, along side a programme of training and support.

ECONOMIC ABUSE INFO SESSIONS

These provide information on the signs to look out for of economic abuse, the reasons why economic abuse is perpetrated and where you can go for help and support.

Support 2 Court

We support women throughout Kent who can't gain access to Legal Aid and can't afford a solicitor

We support in family courts at Medway, Dartford, Canterbury and Maidstone



Court Order we can support with

Non-Molestation Orders

Occupation Orders

Child Arrangement Orders

Prohibited Steps Orders

Specific Issue Orders

Divorce

Emergency Orders





As McKenzie Friends we can...

- Offer support from beginning to end
- Give knowledge of the court process
- Support clients emotionally
- Help with completing forms and paperwork
- Attend court hearings if we are free



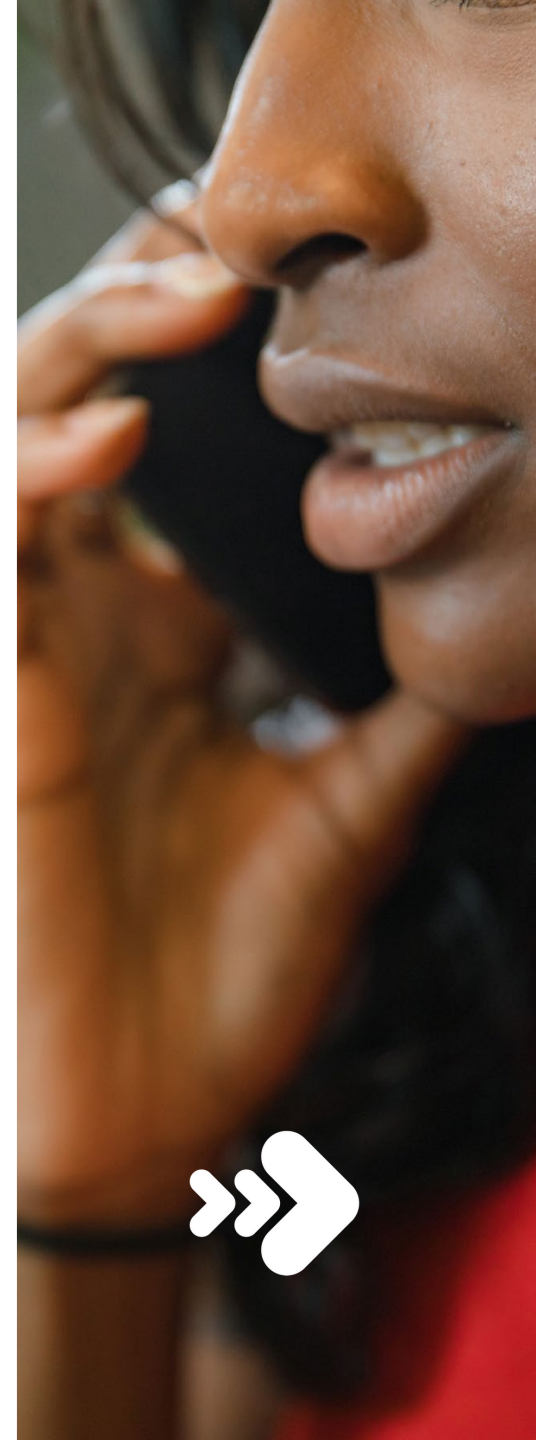
How to access our support

Our service is completely free to the client

Clients can access support via our web page direct:
sateda.org

Contact us by phone: [01795 417251](tel:01795417251)

Outside agencies can complete a referral form online



From 2020-2021

100%

of the women we supported
through the family courts
told us that they felt positive
about the support provided.





Department
for Work &
Pensions

Universal Credit Full Service

Supporting information

UC *Universal
Credit*

Opening up work_

Transforming Welfare

From six benefits to one



Deal with one organisation not three

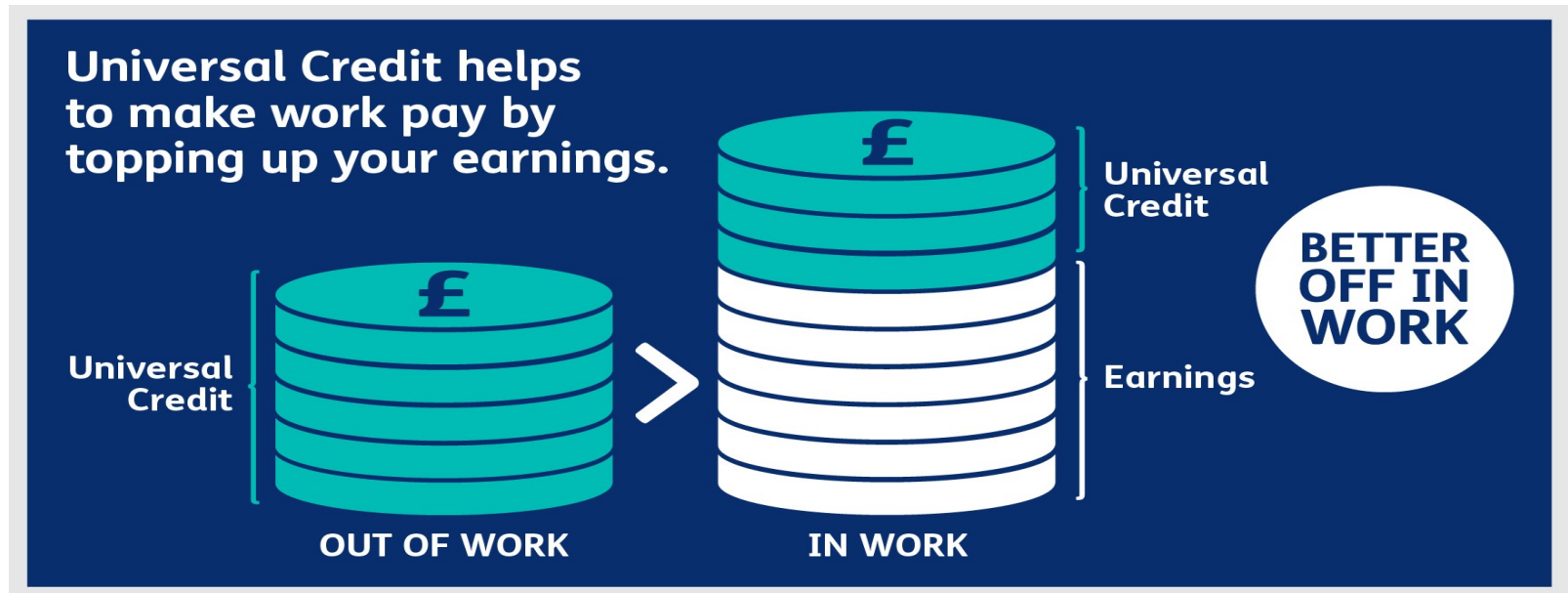


- Universal Credit is a digital, flexible and personalised system
- It reduces barriers to work, incentivising people to move into work
- It also helps people a low income to earn more and get on in their job

Universal Credit – is opening up work by...

- Helping make sure you're better off in work than on benefits
- Allowing part-time and short-term work to act as a stepping stone into work
- Enabling you to work more than 16 hours a week and still claim Universal Credit
- Paying towards your childcare costs, giving you more flexible working hours

This is enabled by a taper that reduces your Universal Credit as you earn more money instead of stopping all your support outright when you work a certain amount.



The Taper In Action

A single person,
with a child getting
help with housing
costs.

They have a work
allowance of £344

During an
assessment
period (1 month)
they earn £532
starting their new
part time job.

The taper rate is
55%

This means for
every £1 earned
over £344 – their
UC payment
reduces by 55p

As earnings rise,
the taper reduces
Universal Credit
more smoothly
than previous
benefits until the
person is self
sufficient.

With zero earnings the full
entitlement to Universal
Credit is paid.
Claimant can earn £344
before deductions.

Claimant earns £532 working part
time. The first £344 is ignored, but
the remaining £188.00 is subject
to the taper rate.

$£188 \times 0.55 = £103.40$
deduction from their
Universal Credit payment,
after earning £532.

The taper will reduce the
Universal Credit payment
until there's nothing left.
In this case, the claimant
went into full time work.

Universal Credit payment
Earnings

Graphical illustration only – not exact

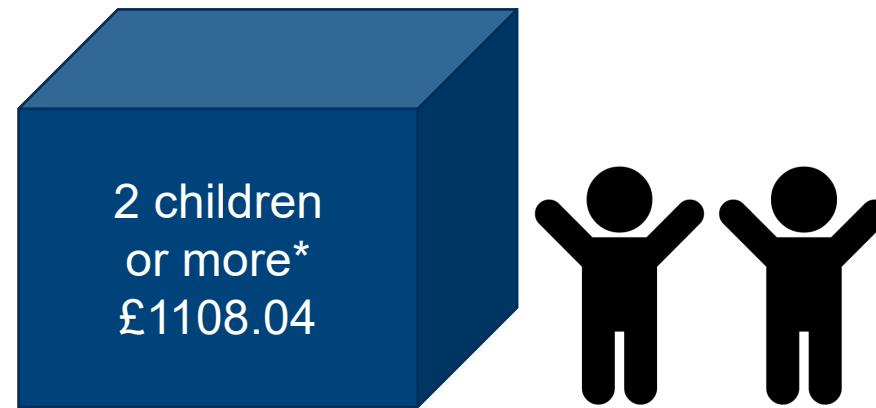
Childcare costs

- Universal Credit will help households meet the costs of childcare they pay out so they can work.
- This will help ensure that all households who can work – do work.
- The childcare policy means that people with average childcare costs should be able to work full time.
- Parents will understand how childcare support is calculated and they will understand how to report childcare costs.



How childcare costs are calculated

- As of April 2017, new claims to Universal Credit will only provide support for up to 2 children.
- Families can claim up to 85% of their eligible childcare costs during a calendar month up to a maximum of:



- Childcare costs are not taken into account when calculating the benefit cap.

**Childcare costs are subject to the April 2017 Two Child Limit rules. Your Partnership Manager has a flowchart to explain this.*

Proof of benefit – the statement

It shows the date of payment here:



The dates the assessment period covers here:



Sometimes a screenshot of “take home pay” section of the statement may be required if no wage slips are available.. This is found further down the statement and can be used to show eligibility if a claimant has fluctuating earnings.

Your payment this month is

£556

This will be paid by 8pm on 22 February 2017

How we calculate your payment

Your payment is based on what you've told us and covers the period between



and



It is important to tell Universal Credit immediately about any changes in your circumstances that could affect your Universal Credit payments.

[Report a change in my circumstances](#)

Take-home pay

Take-home pay is what's left after tax, National Insurance and any pension contributions have been deducted

Your total take-home pay for this period is £50.00

The earnings are based on earnings from employment

The first £111.00 of your take-home pay doesn't affect your Universal Credit monthly amount. Every £1.00 you earn in take-home pay over this amount reduces your Universal Credit by 65 pence.

The total we take off for take-home pay is

£10.00

Personal Budgeting Support and Alternative Payment Arrangements

For a minority of claimants, Alternative Payment Arrangements may be required; these might include:

- **Making more frequent than monthly payments** (weekly or two weekly)

A more frequent payment is when Universal Credit is paid to a claimant more often than the standard monthly payment - if someone is having difficulties managing the single monthly payment.

- **Splitting the payment within the household** - Where Universal Credit is divided between a claimant and their partner/third party - where there is domestic or financial abuse. This request can be made by the claimant, work coach or supporting agent.

- **A managed payment of the Housing Costs element (paid directly to the landlord)**

Option to pay directly to the landlord if a claimant reaches a certain level of rent arrears. (Usually 2 calendar months / 8 weeks)

All Alternative Payment Arrangements are subject to review.

All claimants who have an Alternative Payment Arrangement should be referred for Personal Budgeting Support.



Alternative Payment Arrangements – consideration factors

Highly likely / probable need for Alternative Payment Arrangements
Drug / alcohol and / or other addiction problems e.g. gambling
Learning difficulties including problems with literacy and/or numeracy
Severe / multiple debt problems
In temporary and / or supported accommodation
Homeless
Domestic violence / abuse
Mental health condition
Currently in rent arrears / threat of eviction / repossession
Claimant is young either a 16/17 year old and / or a care leaver
Families with multiple and complex needs
Less likely / possible need for Alternative Payment Arrangements
Third party deductions in place (e.g. for fines, utility arrears etc..)
Claimant is a refugee / asylum seeker
History of rent arrears
Previously homeless and / or in supported accommodation
Other disability (e.g. physical disability, sensory impairment etc.)
Claimant has just left prison
Claimant has just left hospital
Recently bereaved
Language skills (e.g. English not spoken as the 'first language').
Ex service personnel
NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training)

Easements for victims of domestic abuse

All work-related requirements will be, temporarily switched-off for 13 weeks if the claimant is or has been a victim of domestic abuse, providing evidence is provided and the:

- Incident or pattern of domestic abuse occurred within the previous 6 months
- Incident or pattern meets the definition of domestic abuse
- Claimant is not living at the same address as the abuser (*if they are living with the abuser, discretion can be used*)
- Claimant has not had requirements switched-off as a result of previous domestic abuse within the last 12 months
- Claimant provides written evidence within one month of the date they discussed the matter

NB: *If the claimant provides the relevant evidence and is responsible for a child, children or qualifying young person(s), the switch-off period is extended to 26 weeks from the date the claimant discussed the matter.*

When A Claimant Leaves Their Home Through Fear of Violence

- Where the household or members of the household leave their home through fear of violence but intend to return, liability for the home that has been left and any new home can be met for up to 12 assessment periods
- The exception is where the new home is specified accommodation, when housing costs support for the new home is available via Housing Benefit. Only the liability for the previous home can be met in UC, subject to the time limit.

This is worked out by

- Calculating the housing costs element for each property (including any relevant housing costs contributions) and add them together
- If a deduction was made for housing cost contributions in respect of both homes, the amount of the housing costs contributions in respect of the new home must be added to the total housing costs.
- Where Social Rented Sector tenants are housed in two properties owing to the size of their household, they may be charged either a single rent liability for both homes, or two separate rent liabilities for each home.
- The value of the housing costs element in this case is worked out using total amount of rent charged for both properties, with any deductions for spare bedrooms taken against this single total.

Providers in our Chatham Site

Once per month we have the following providers in site offering support to individuals domestic abuse victims



1st Monday of every month



2nd Monday of every month

A room is always available for individuals to speak to our partners in confidence

Additional easements

- DWP can pay for 2 properties for up to 12 months where domestic abuse support is needed (is looked at on a case by case basis)
- Claimants experiencing domestic abuse can have their requirements to look for work be relaxed for up to 13 weeks where appropriate (is looked at on a case by case basis)

Outreach



Sunlight Centre
105 Richmond Road
Gillingham, Kent, ME7 1LX

We have a dedicated team of staff within DWP that attend the Sunlight centre every Tuesday where benefit information and advice is available to those that attend



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The Ripple Effect on Education

Geraldine Burden
(Jerri)



medway.gov.uk/mae



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Medway Adult Education courses include:

- Creative courses
- Courses to develop and maintain health and wellbeing
- Special interest courses
- English
- English for Speakers of Other Languages
- Maths (including Multiply)
- Digital Skills
- Vocational courses
- Family learning

Multiply



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The impact of domestic abuse on learning:

- Concentration
- Attendance
- Confidence
- Social interactions with peers
- Engagement in activities
- Levels of attainment
- Progression into further study or employment



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Medway Adult Education is committed to safeguarding others.

Domestic abuse is a safeguarding issue.



medway.gov.uk/mae



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Benefits include:

- Reducing social isolation
- Making new friends
- Learning new skills
- Improving opportunities
- Developing pride
- Role models
- Help with homework
- Awareness of rights and responsibilities
- Access to community services
- Support opportunities
- Progression
- Motivation
- Confidence



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Thank you

Geraldine.Burden@Medway.gov.uk



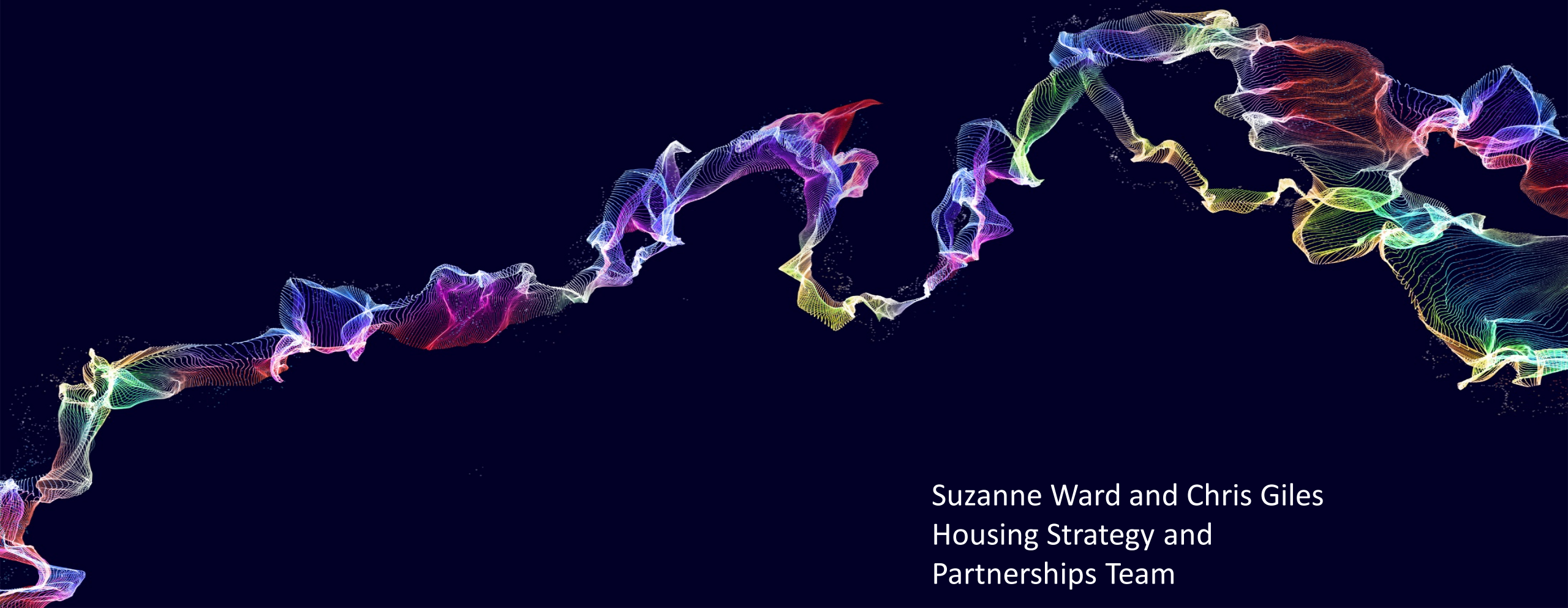
medway.gov.uk/mae



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MDAF Conference 2022

Medway Housing

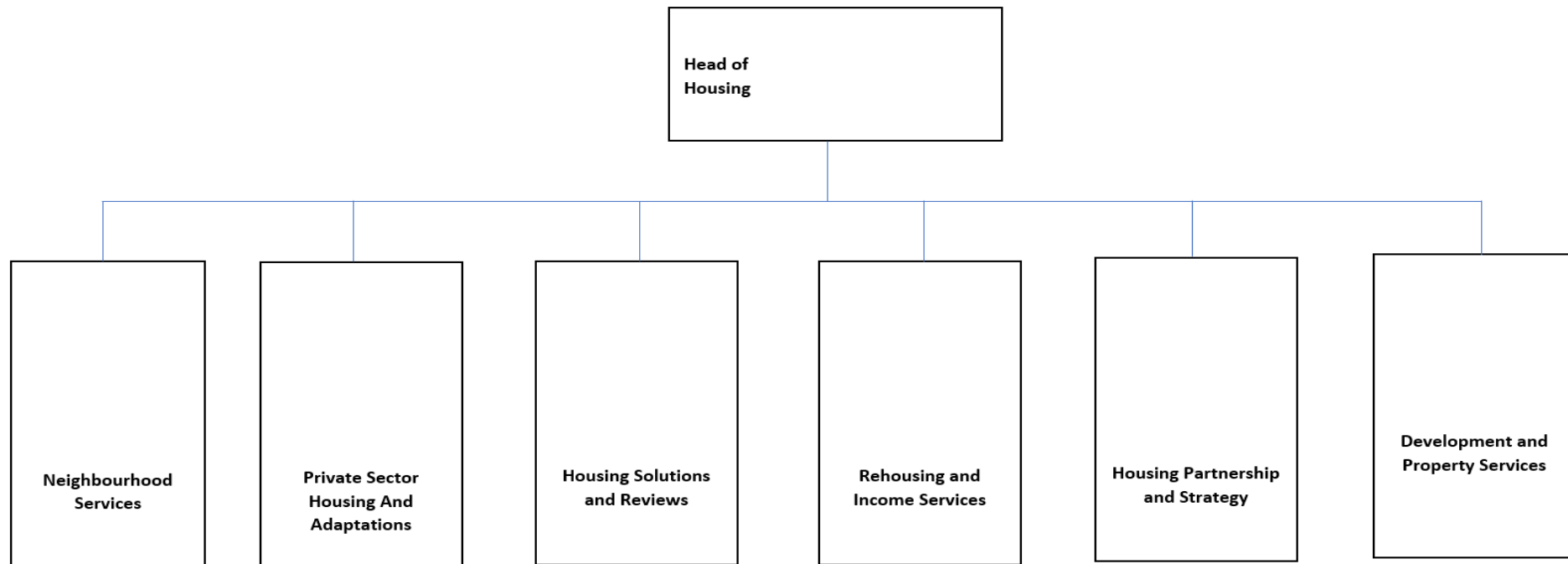


Suzanne Ward and Chris Giles
Housing Strategy and
Partnerships Team



Welcome to Housing in Medway

Housing Services





The Domestic Abuse Act 2021

Children as victims

Safe & Relevant Accommodation

Controlling and coercive behaviour

Non-fatal strangulation

Threats to share intimate images

Rough sex plea

DAPO's

Special measures in family courts

Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy 2020-23



Domestic Abuse Strategy – Safe Accommodation

Our Safe Accommodation Strategy sits across 6 themes



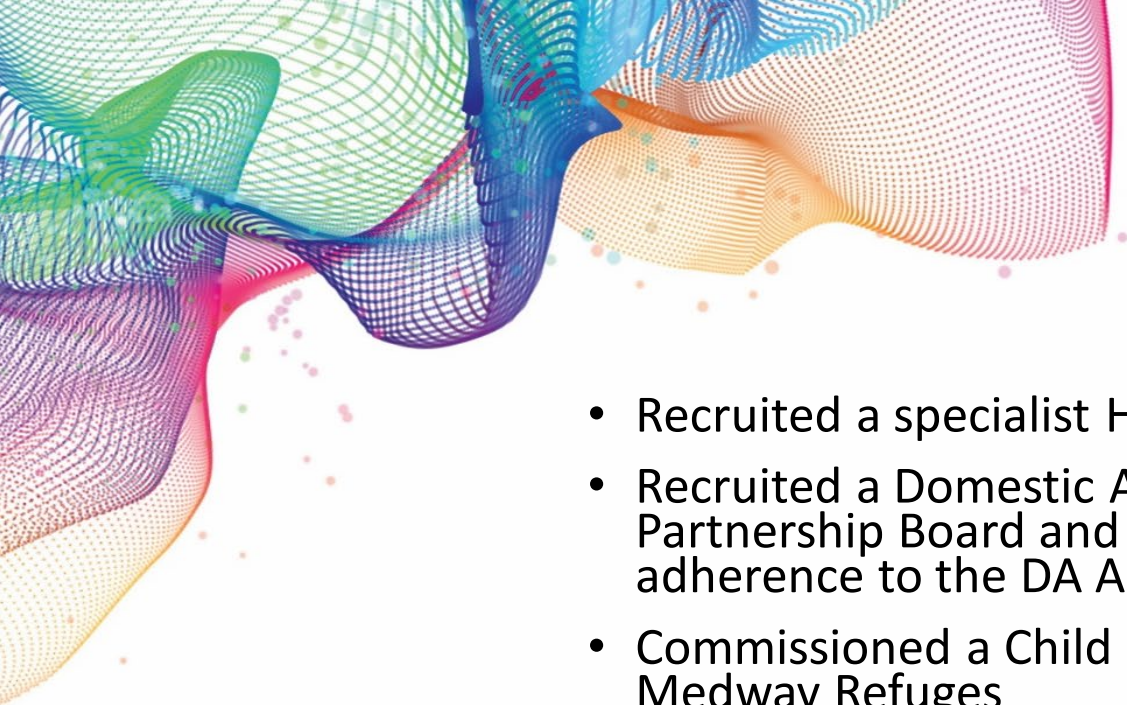
47. The Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance in collaboration with the National Housing and Domestic Abuse Policy and Practice Group

48. Whole Housing Approach Toolkit, DAHA Alliance, 1_-wha-toolkit-introduction.pdf (dahalliance.org.uk)

An abstract graphic in the top-left corner consisting of overlapping, wavy, mesh-like shapes in shades of green, blue, purple, and orange, with small colored dots scattered around them.

Domestic Abuse Act – Part 4 – Needs assessment

- Improve access of support to: male victims and survivors – victims and survivors with multiple needs (such as those with mental health support requirements or people affected by drug or alcohol abuse) – victims and survivors with disabilities
- strengthen available support for children in safe accommodation
- increase safe accommodation options for Medway residents:
- develop dispersed accommodation services to support those who may not be able to access refuge
- enhance support for those fleeing with animals.
- begin the rollout of dispersed accommodation which is adaptable to meet the needs of wide demographic groups
- appoint appropriate staffing to monitor, evaluate and improve service delivery in Medway

An abstract graphic on the left side of the slide, featuring overlapping, wavy, mesh-like shapes in various colors including green, blue, purple, orange, and pink. The shapes flow from the top left towards the center, creating a sense of movement and depth.

What we have done in response

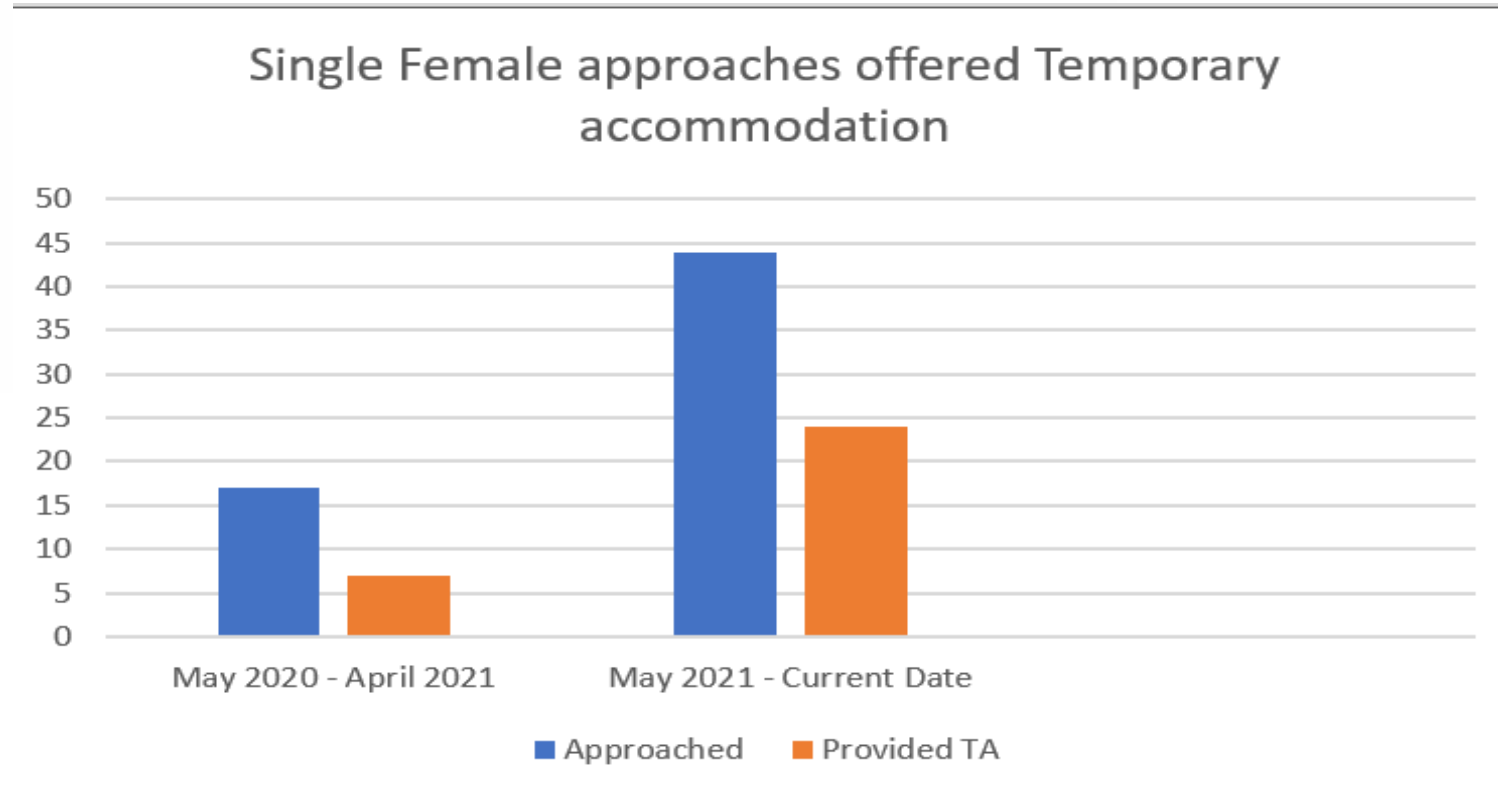
- Recruited a specialist Housing Officer
- Recruited a Domestic Abuse Project Officer to support our Local Partnership Board and look at how we are achieving our targets and adherence to the DA Act
- Commissioned a Child and Adults Counselling Service for the Medway Refuges
- Commissioned an Access IDVA to enhance work with people experiencing barriers to getting a service
- Commissioned a Dispersed Accommodation Scheme for people who want to stay in Medway, people with older male children, male victims of DA, people with pets, etc
- Set up a Local Partnership Board (LPB) to ratify our activity
- Set up a Lived Experience Group to get perspectives of adults and children and feed this into the LPB

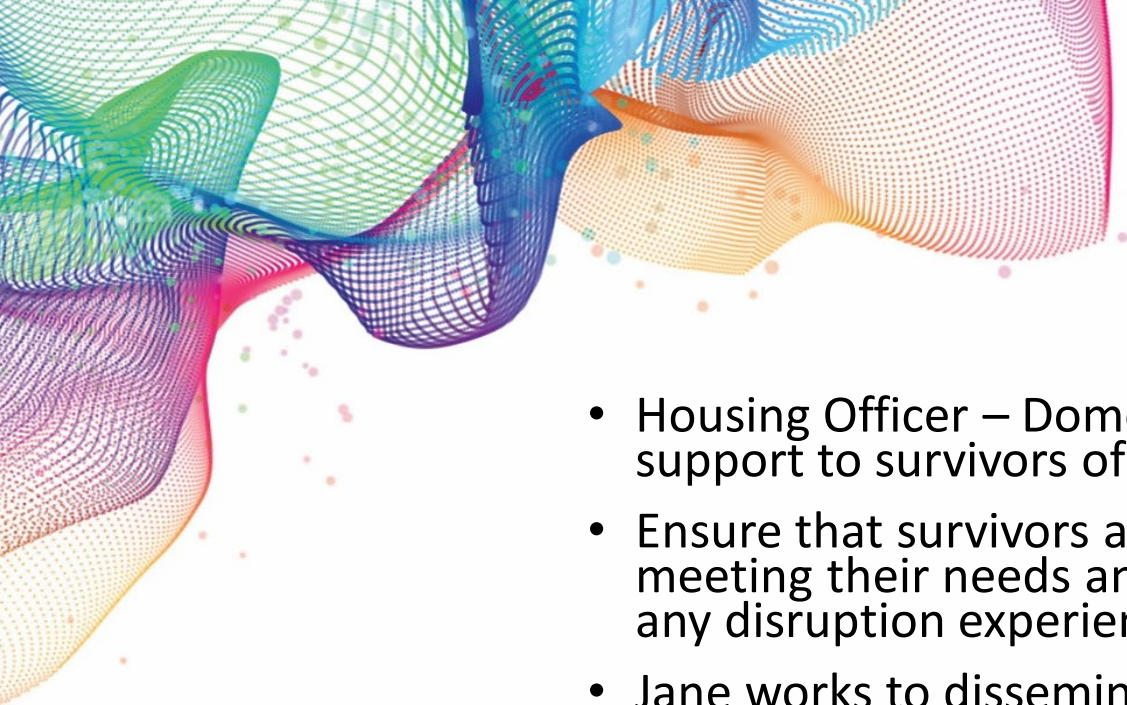
An abstract graphic in the top-left corner consisting of a colorful, multi-layered mesh or wireframe structure. The colors transition from green and blue on the left to orange and red on the right, with small dots scattered around it.

What we are planning to do

- Looking at options for expansion of current service commissioning
- Recommissioning services and commissioning new ones
- Increasing the voice of people with lived experience
- Reporting back on success and outcomes to DLUHC
- Looking to best practice nationwide and what we can learn
- Strengthening existing services where we can
- Working with Kent on a joint delivery plan to make sure services continually improve

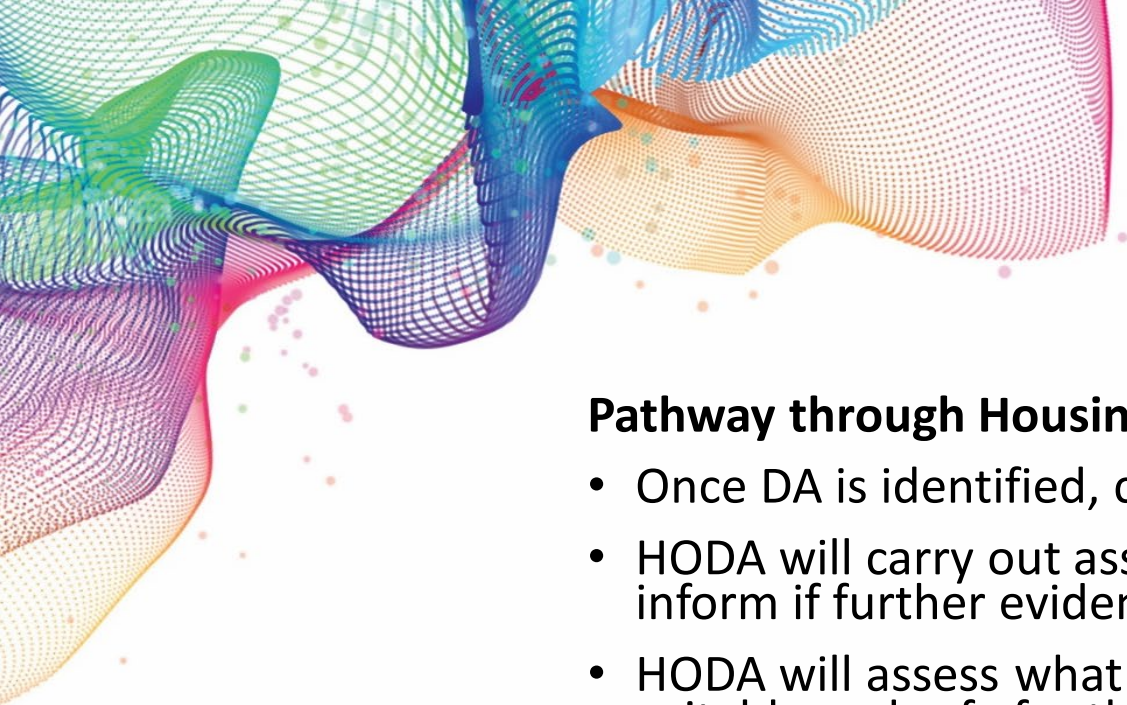
Snapshot of Housing Options outcomes change since Act





Domestic Abuse Act – HODA

- Housing Officer – Domestic Abuse role is to provide an holistic support to survivors of DA
- Ensure that survivors are provided with a service that focusses on meeting their needs and support towards minimising the impact of any disruption experienced while fleeing abuse
- Jane works to disseminate good practice and upskilling the wider team to improve understanding of working with DA survivors
- Promotes safeguarding and other referral to adults and children's services when needed
- Liaises with partner agencies and organisations
- Refers to MARAC, Oasis, Kent Fire and Rescue and Sanctuary Schemes
- Supports team to identify types of abuse within their case load and holds own case load

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Domestic Abuse Act – HODA

Pathway through Housing Options:

- Once DA is identified, client will be allocated to Housing Officer DA
- HODA will carry out assessment and information gathering and inform if further evidence is needed for homeless application
- HODA will assess what safe accommodation or support is most suitable and safe for the client and discuss this with them
- For some, the safest place might be a Refuge out of area, in which case, HODA officer will discuss this process with client
- Some will be eligible to stay in Medway and a referral for the DA dispersed accommodation scheme may be made – Safe in Medway
- If client wants to, and it is safe to do so, HODA will make a Sanctuary Scheme referral and discuss with client about having target hardening measures on their home to keep them safe e.g. reinforced doors, window locks, CCTV etc.
- Assessing risk, safety planning, advice and signposting continues through the duration of involvement with HODA

An abstract graphic on the left side of the slide, featuring overlapping, wavy, mesh-like shapes in shades of green, blue, purple, orange, and pink. Small dots of the same colors are scattered around the waves.

Feedback

“I feel very supported by you and always have done. I didn’t think I would get as much support as I have done from everyone in housing and PRS. For you Jane, it has helped that you made me feel safe and did all of the safety planning from that first moment and referred me to Oasis too. I didn’t have a clue and you were the first one to guide me. I wouldn’t have known what to do if it wasn’t for you. I would tell people about you, you are unique. I give thanks to all you have done for me and Alix and the PRS Team. Thank you.”

“Thank you so much Jane for all your help and support.

I have appreciated having you as my Domestic Abuse officer.

What I went through was very traumatic but I felt so supported by you. Thank you for your constant calls to check on me. Thank you for going above and beyond for me. You helped me with things that were not even in your remit, responsibilities or department.

You were simply amazing! “

Please catch up with us in the break



Tea break and networking

Please submit questions to question box



What is Family Solutions?

Family Solutions is Medway Councils Early Help offer, within Medway councils Strategy of Early Help is everyone's responsibility .

We offer effective targeted intervention to families to promote their wellbeing and resilience. We use a Signs of Safety practice framework.

We encourage families to access support through our Family hubs – Strood, Chatham, Wayfield and Gillingham. This ensures we're closer to the families, communities and partnerships that we support across Medway.

https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200255/childrens_social_worker_jobs/760/our_childrens_social_work_teams/3

What is Family Solutions?

Our two Domestic Abuse leads who cover Medway are, Sonya Goodred covers Chatham & Wayfield, Nancy Andrews covers Strood & Gillingham.

We work with families who are identified low to medium domestic abuse risk, this is determined by completing a DASH, high risks case are referred to MARAC.

We work with families and wider partners in the community to create a holistic family plan. The plan will build on the family strengths and support, with areas of worries..

- We receive referrals from SPA and they will decide if advice/guidance/family solutions or children social care is relevant.
- Where Domestic Abuse is the main concerns, the family will be allocated to one of our DA Leads
- The Domestic Abuse Lead will work a 6-8 week intervention which normally has a maximum of 5 outcomes.
- We attend Marac weekly.
- At the hubs we offer a safe space where victims can speak to professionals for support and guidance.

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- Direct work with the children and parent will take place.
- We can refer to DWP workers to ensure they're receiving the correct benefits.
- We can sign post to other support and services within the community or national organisations
- All Family Solutions Workers are trained in domestic abuse awareness. Our DA Leads offer further advice and guidance when required, through one off sessions and case discussions.



Serving You

**We offer support Programme's within
Medway**

- **DART programme.**
- **CDAP Programme - this is a perpetrator programme commissioned by Medway but requires self referral by the Perpetrator.**

**• Any Questions
?**



Serving You

Children and the trauma of Domestic Abuse

Kirstie King

Learning and development officer

Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership

Children as victims of Domestic Abuse

- Any reference in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 to a victim of domestic abuse includes a reference to a child who—
 - (a) sees or hears, or experiences the effects of, the abuse, and
 - (b) is related to the perpetrator or abused.
- A child is related to a person for the purposes of subsection (2) if—
 - (a) the person is a parent of, or has parental responsibility for, the child, or
 - (b) the child and the person are relatives

What is trauma?

- Going through very stressful, frightening or distressing events is sometimes called trauma. When we talk about emotional or psychological trauma, we might mean:
 - situations or events we find traumatic
 - how we're affected by our experiences.
- Traumatic events can happen at any age and can cause long-lasting harm. Everyone has a different reaction to trauma, so you might notice any effects quickly, or a long time afterwards.
- Going through further trauma can also cause you to start being affected by past experiences, or make existing problems worse.

Trauma can include events where you feel:

- frightened
- under threat
- humiliated
- rejected
- abandoned
- Invalidated
- unsafe
- unsupported
- trapped
- ashamed
- powerless

www.mind.org.uk

Ways trauma can happen include:

- one-off or ongoing events
- being directly harmed
- witnessing harm to someone else
- living in a traumatic atmosphere
- being affected by trauma in a family or community

How our bodies respond to danger

- Freeze – feeling paralysed or unable to move.
- Flop – doing what you're told without being able to protest.
- Fight – fighting, struggling or protesting.
- Flight – hiding or moving away.
- Fawn – trying to please someone who harms you.

Common mental health effects of trauma

- Flashbacks – reliving the traumatic event.
- Panic attacks – a type of fear response
- Dissociation – detached from body/world
- Hyperarousal – constantly on edge
- Sleep problems – e.g. nightmares, feeling unsafe at night
- Low self esteem – how you value and perceive yourself
- Grief – at the impact trauma has on life
- Self – harm – using it as a coping mechanism
- Suicidal feelings – thinking about methods and making plans
- Alcohol and substance misuse – using it as a coping mechanism

“Not just Collateral Damage: The hidden impact of domestic abuse on children”

- Mental health

- Children who are exposed to domestic abuse experience increased levels of fear, inhibition, anxiety and depression compared to their peers.
- Three times more likely than other children to have a conduct disorder.
- High levels of behavioural problems or difficulties adjusting at school.
- Increased rates of interpersonal problems with other family members.
- Increased rate of risk taking and anti social behaviour including truancy, early sexual activity, substances misuse and criminal activity.



“Not just Collateral Damage: The hidden impact of domestic abuse on children”

- Child development

- Research suggests the impact on neurological development can manifest itself in poor health, poor sleeping habits, excessive screaming, and result in disrupted attachment between child and mother.
- Exposure to domestic abuse in the early years can also lead to psychosomatic complaints such as headaches and abdominal pain, regressive behaviours, anxiety around strangers, crying and clingy behaviour, as well as ‘signs of terror’ manifested by yelling, irritability, hiding, and stuttering.
- Aggressive behaviour towards adult victim, siblings, peers.
- Life choices impacted by violent and criminal behaviours and school exclusions.



**Medway
Safeguarding
Children Partnership**
Safeguarding Medway's
children together

“Not just Collateral Damage: The hidden impact of domestic abuse on children”

- **Harmful Sexual Behaviour**

- Children who display HSB are likely to have suffered from a range of traumatic experiences, such as domestic abuse and neglect.
- Evidence from the Parliamentary Inquiry into HSB found that experience of domestic abuse has particularly strong correlation with children displaying harmful behaviours.
- At risk of sexual exploitation.

“Not just Collateral Damage: The hidden impact of domestic abuse on children”

- The impact of future cycles of abuse
 - Not all children who experience domestic abuse go on to become abusers or further experience abuse in adulthood. But it is more likely.
 - Lack of understanding of what abusive relationships are.
 - Staying in “relationships” because returning home is not an option.
 - Lacking positive relationship role models.

“Not just Collateral Damage: The hidden impact of domestic abuse on children”

- Youth offending

- Growing evidence that experiencing domestic abuse as a child or young person can result in youth offending.
- Young people in abusive relationships who are also being coerced into criminal activity.

Protective and compensatory experience buffers stress and trauma

- **Direct experiences**

- Unconditional love
- Having a close friend
- Being involved in interest groups – sports, drama, music etc.
- Timely mentoring / therapeutic input or engagement with specialist services

- **Environmental factors**

- Access to an available trusted adult (not a parent)
- Access to appropriate education
- Clean and safe living environment
- Engaging in hobbies

Support services

- YAMS (Provided by Oasis for those engaged in the Medway Domestic Abuse Service and Safe in Medway)
- Loves me loves me not (Classroom based educational programmes provided through MDAS/OASIS)
- DART (Through family solutions)
- Relationship and sex education in education settings (supported by Medway Public Health.
- Kooth in Medway (anonymous mental health support)
- Universal/commissioned services: e.g. Health services, Medway Youth Service.

Reflection:

- Where are presenting behaviours coming from?
- What happened / is happening to them?
- What is their lived experience?
- What was their lived experience of childhood?
- What opportunity has there been for positive / compensatory experiences?

What is an IDVA?



Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs)
are specialist support workers that work with the person experiencing abuse to reduce risk and increase safety.



What does in IDVA do?



Working to end violence and abuse.

IDVAs work with the client to produce a practical safety plan- bespoke to an individuals needs.

They work with high-risk (MARAC) clients and community clients that are not high-risk.

They work with holistically with a number of different professionals.

- Can support with:
- Access to criminal justice needs
- Housing needs
- Access to civil court needs (injunctions)
- Financial needs
- Support to understand domestic abuse and its impacts

Medway Services



Medway Domestic Abuse Service

Service Manager- Aston Vicary- aston.vicary@oasisdaservice.org

MARAC IDVA's, Community IDVA's, Hospital IDVA, Access IDVA.

How to refer:

Download our referral form (medium risk):

www.oasisdomesticabuseservice.org,

or complete a MARAC referral (high risk)

Email referrals to: referrals@oasis.cjsm.net



SiM (Safe in Medway)

Service Manager: Lynne Pope- Lynne.pope@oasisdaservice.org

Safe dispersed accommodation with support from IDVAs,
family practitioner, housing and resettlement officer

-How to refer:

No direct referrals, referrals made via homeless route with
Medway Council

What if out of Medway?



Oasis also cover Dover and Thanet- High and Medium risk victims:

raise.referrals@oasis.cjsm.net



Working to end violence and abuse.

Find the services in your area by using the interactive map on this website:



www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk

Any Questions?



Closing remarks and thanks.

Dr Liza Thompson

- ▶ Please submit all questions in question box near the entrance.
- ▶ Please ensure evaluation forms are completed and handed in as you leave.