



**Committee
Thriving People**

Date 16th July 2026

Subject: Domestic Abuse Residents Policy

Report by:

Director for Planning, Regeneration & Communities

Contact Officer:

Sarah Elvin
Head of Housing, Health & Wellbeing

Executive Summary:

This report seeks approval for the adoption of the Domestic Abuse Resident Policy (June 2026).

The policy sets out how the Council will prevent, identify, and respond to domestic abuse affecting residents, ensuring compliance with statutory duties and supporting a consistent, trauma-informed approach.

The Domestic Abuse Resident Policy provides a robust and comprehensive framework for supporting residents affected by domestic abuse. Adoption will ensure the Council meets its statutory duties in relation to domestic abuse, delivers consistent and high-quality services, and contributes to safer, more resilient communities.

Adoption of this policy will lead to improved outcomes for residents, and alignment with partnership working.

Appendices to Report

- Domestic Abuse Residents Policy

RECOMMENDATION(S):

- That members adopt the Domestic Abuse Residents Policy**
- That members delegate authority to the Director for Planning, Regeneration and Communities in consultation with the Chair of Thriving People Committee to approve minor amendments to the policy should they be required**

(c) That members not the ongoing statutory duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Domestic abuse is a significant national and local issue, affecting individuals regardless of age, gender, background or circumstance. It includes physical, emotional, coercive, economic and psychological abuse, and can occur within a range of personal relationships.
- 1.2 The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 introduced strengthened duties on local authorities, including recognition of children as victims in their own right and expectations around coordinated support services.
- 1.3 The Council has a key role in:
 - Safeguarding vulnerable residents
 - Providing housing advice and support, including rehousing where required
 - Working with partners such as police, health services, and specialist domestic abuse organisations
- 1.4 This policy replaces previous arrangements and reflects current legislation, best practice, and local partnership frameworks.

2. Policy overview

- 2.1 The Domestic Abuse Resident Policy applies to all residents within the district and sets out how the Council will respond to domestic abuse cases, including both victims/survivors and perpetrators
- 2.2 Within the policy, West Lindsey make some key commitments which set out that the Council will:
 - Take all disclosures seriously and respond in a non-judgemental way
 - Provide appropriate support regardless of background or protected characteristics
 - Work collaboratively with partners to ensure coordinated support
 - Take action against perpetrators where powers allow
 - Ensure a victim-led approach that prioritises safety and wellbeing
- 2.3 Service Delivery - Residents can expect safe and confidential engagement and undertaking of risk assessments (including DASH where appropriate) if they approach West Lindsey and declare they are a victim of domestic abuse.
- 2.4 There will be agreed action plans and regular reviews alongside access to specialist support services. If its safe to do so, support to remain safely at home will be provide or alternatively, assistance to move where required

- 2.5 Housing and Rehousing Support – where victims/survivors are not able to remain at home, they will be supported through homelessness duties by a homelessness prevention officer. Where someone is fleeing domestic abuse, priority need status applies under homelessness legislation ensuring everyone who is fleeing domestic abuse is provided with help and support. Temporary accommodation will be provided where necessary to ensure safety
- 2.6 Safeguarding and Data Protection
- Information will be handled in line with GDPR and safeguarding responsibilities
 - Information sharing will occur where necessary to protect individuals at risk

3. Key benefits

- 3.1 Adoption of this policy will ensure a consistent and lawful response across all West Lindsey District Council services when someone approaches any area of the Council and discloses they are a victim of domestic abuse.
- 3.2 The policy is also designed to strengthen prevention and early intervention to allow more effective delivery of services and reduction in those presenting as feeling domestic abuse. This will be done through improved partnership working and awareness of domestic abuse both internally and externally.
- 3.3 By implementing this policy and improving early intervention and prevention, we will improve the safety for victims and their children and increase positive outcomes

Implementation, monitoring and review

- 4.1 Alongside implementation of this outward facing policy, a number of staff policies and procedures are internally being adopted, this will ensure all staff are aware of their responsibilities and understand how to respond should someone disclose they are a victim of domestic abuse, or, should a staff member suspect that.
- 4.2 The policy will be kept under review and should a minor change be required, this will be agreed by the Director for Planning, regeneration and Communities in consultation with the staff champions panel and JSCC if required. A version control of the policy will be kept online.
- 4.3 Performance will be monitored through case reviews, partnership reporting and service feedback. Continual improvement will be expected through the staff champions group.

5 Alternative Options

- 5.1 **Do nothing** – West Lindsey already have a robust approach to ensuring that anyone who is a victim of Domestic Abuse is offered a service which is equitable and helps to keep them safe and secure.
- 5.2 The policy firms up the approach and ensures that everyone is aware of the responsibilities we have as a local authority and can hold us to account should they feel we are not adhering to the policy.
- 5.3 However, as we already have excellent practices in place, should members choose to not adopt this policy, it will not have an impact on some of our most vulnerable residents as the services are already in place, the policy just formalises those and highlights the good work taking place

	Option	Rational for not recommending
1	Do nothing	This policy demonstrates the good work already being undertaken by West Lindsey and gives clear information to our residents who may be fleeing Domestic Abuse.

ASSOCIATED IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

The policy supports compliance with:

- Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- Homelessness legislation, including priority need duties
- Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR

Failure to adopt an up-to-date policy may expose the Council to legal and reputational risk.

Financial: FIN/51/27/TPE/SL

The policy will be delivered within existing resources.

Any additional costs (e.g. temporary accommodation or security measures) will be managed through existing housing and homelessness budgets and partnership arrangements.

Staffing:

None

LGR implications:

None

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights:

The policy explicitly recognises that domestic abuse affects all communities and commits to:

- Supporting individuals regardless of protected characteristics
- Addressing barriers faced by vulnerable groups (e.g. disability, language, immigration status)

An Equality Impact Assessment is embedded within the policy approach

Data Protection Implications:

The policy has significant data protection implications, but these are appropriately mitigated through adherence to legislation, strong confidentiality controls, and clear guidance on information sharing. Effective implementation will ensure both compliance and the safety of victims/survivors.

The policy makes clear that:

- Information will not be shared without consent unless required by law or where there is a safeguarding risk
- Personal data may be shared with partner agencies (e.g. police, health services, specialist support providers) where necessary to protect individuals

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:

N/A

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations:

N/A

Health Implications:

Domestic abuse has significant and wide-ranging impacts on the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities. The adoption of this policy will contribute positively to mitigating these impacts and improving public health outcomes.

Risk Assessment:

N/A

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

None

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

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No

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Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

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No

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