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**Community Leadership Overview
and Scrutiny Committee**

**Final Report of the
Crime and
Disorder Task &
Finish Group
(Familial Violence
and Abuse)**

Investigating the types of familial violence that is prevalent in Tendring.

Highlighting preventative measures, and the support available for victims and survivors.

15th April 2025

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TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE TASK & FINISH WORKING GROUP

At the meeting of Council on 6 August 2024, the work programme for the two Overview and Scrutiny Committees were approved. This included, within the scope of the Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ask the cross-party group of councillors to compile a report. The report identifies the prevalence of familial violence and its impact on people living in Tendring, setting out what support is offered to victims and survivors, including the work that Tendring District Council (TDC) contributes to as part of partnership working, within its role as a partner of the Community Safety Partnership.

In order to stay on track the working group recognise that this is a highly emotive subject, and whilst recommendations will be included in the final report, any recommendations will demonstrate that solutions will continue to be sought by working with our colleagues across the many statutory and voluntary service provisions.

The final report seeks to set out the process of the enquiry into the above and its conclusions and recommendations concerning the types of familial abuse, Elder abuse and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), what support mechanisms exist locally and what support is available for victims and survivors and for perpetrators of Domestic Abuse.

THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ENQUIRY

The enquiry supports the Council's Corporate Plan themes of:

- Working with partners to improve quality of life
- Pride in our area and services to residents

MEMBERSHIP OF THE TASK & FINISH WORKING GROUP

On 17 August 2023, a decision in the name of the Chief Executive was published constituting the Task and Finish Group. Authority for the decision derived from Minute 5 of the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 27 June 2023. That provided for Officers to be authorised, in consultation with the Committee Chairman, to make appointments to a Task and Finish Group as approved by Council (Minute 37 of 11 July 2023).

The Membership of the Task and Finish Group was :

Cllr. Carrie Doyle – Chairperson.
Cllr. Geeta Sudra
Cllr. Bernie Goldman

Cllr. Tanya Ferguson
Cllr. Gina Placey
Cllr. Ann Oxley

OFFICER SUPPORT FOR THE TASK & FINISH WORKING GROUP

Management Team identified lead officer Damian Williams, Corporate Director Operations and Delivery for this whole enquiry:

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Otherwise, the Task and Finish Group was supported by:

Bethany Jones – Committee Service officer – Clerk for Task & Finish Group
Leanne Thornton – Community safety & Safeguarding Manager

INVITEES AND PARTICIPANTS

The Group requested partner agencies to attend the meeting on 13th of March 2025.

The Partner Agencies invited were:

Essex Police – Domestic Violence Team

Mankind – Supporting Male Victims of Domestic violence. (Did not respond to invite)

Next Chapter – Supporting women and their children plan towards a future free from violence.

Change Project – Helps perpetrators to recognise their abusive behaviours and to break the cycle of domestic abuse.

EXPECTED OUTCOME(S) OF THIS ELEMENT OF THE ENQUIRY

The section above sets out the broad “Aims and Objectives of the Enquiry” which were the expected outcomes of this element of the enquiry also, to inform The Council regarding: -

- What types of familial violence are prevalent within Tendring District?
- What are current trends, and do they differ from the national picture?
- What support is in place to support victims & survivors?
- What support if any is provided to perpetrators of familial violence.
- How do we keep our people safe.

The objective of this enquiry is for panel members to:

- Highlight any gaps in provision that may exist, where we could work with partners in finding ways to support the residents of Tendring, who are currently experiencing Familial violence.
- What will improve residents experience, when seeking support from TDC regarding familial violence. This may be by improved pathways of communication and safeguarding.
- To highlight areas of excellent work currently being undertaken by staff at TDC in partnership with other agencies.

It was intended that there would be an informed position to make recommendations to support the intentions set out in the “Aims and Objectives of the Enquiry” section above.

ACTUAL OUTCOME(S) OF THIS ELEMENT OF THE ENQUIRY

Through the four meetings of the Task and Finish Group on this element of the enquiry, and the receipt of information outside of those meetings from those invited to attend, the Task and Finish Group Members consider that they are in a position to make the recommendations set

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out below which themselves are designed to meet the intentions set out in the “Aims and Objectives of the Enquiry” section above.

Unfortunately, the statistics for Familial Abuse were not available as incidents of Familial Domestic Abuse are not recorded. However, all types of Domestic Abuse were discussed at the meetings.

RECOMMENDATION(S) FROM THIS ELEMENT OF THE ENQUIRY

That the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee be recommended to approve the following on the basis that the relevant recipient of the approved recommendation will have the recommendation concerned referenced to them:

- (1) Analyse data from the National Centre for Domestic Abuse in relational to familial abuse;**
- (2) Ensure the Community Safety Partnership and the Council’s Community Safety Team advocate and champion where possible local support services for survivors of domestic abuse;**
- (3) Make sure the County Wide Strategy for tackling Domestic Abuse reflects the new Authorities once Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution is complete;**
- (4) Ensure training about types of domestic abuse and how to signpost to domestic abuse support services are available to Reception and Admin staff across the Council;**
- (5) Advocate and champion where possible local refuge services for domestic abuse survivors and their children;**
- (6) Community Safety Partnership to encourage schools to take up the sessions provide by the Police and Fire Joint Education Team; and**
- (7) Encourage Tendring Secondary schools to participate in the Stronger Together Show 2025 funded by Tendring District Council (Link below)**

https://youtu.be/aAZ73nXbY_c

CHRONOLOGY

The enquiry was (and its terms of reference were) approved by full Council on 6 August 2024.

Between 12 November 2024 and 7 January 2025, the Task and Finish Group undertook the first element of its enquiry and this related to understanding if there has been an increase or decrease in reports of Domestic Abuse and compare data sets. Also to discuss information provided by the Community Safety and Safeguarding Manager, such as the support services available to Tendring residents, information about the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board (SETDAB) and the SET DAB Annual Report.

In that phase of the entire enquiry the Task and Finish Group met twice. As such, this phase of the enquiry commenced with meeting three of the Task and Finish Group.

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The third meeting of the Task and Finish Group took place on 13 March 2025 (External Agencies Presentations).

The fourth and final meeting of the Task and Finish Group took place on 3rd April 2025.

DETAILED FINDINGS OF THE ENQUIRY

Through the several meetings of the task and Finish Group it received a great deal of information around the issue of Domestic Abuse. This included the following grouped under the sub-headings shown:

Statistics – Essex Police Recorded Incidents of Domestic Abuse – Comparison September 2023 – September 2024.

Victim Based Crime	Offences				
Crime Type	2023	2024	# diff.	% diff.	% All 2015
- <i>Stalking and Harassment</i>	1942	1696	-246	-12.7	

Victim Based: Under Reported	Offences				
Crime Type	2023	2024	# diff.	% diff.	% All 2015
Domestic Abuse	2449	2648	199	8.1	21.3
- <i>High Risk Domestic Abuse</i>	218	259	41	18.8	2.1
- <i>Medium Risk Domestic Abuse</i>	281	501	220	78.3	4.0
- <i>Standard Risk Domestic Abuse</i>	1805	1794	-11	-0.6	14.4
- <i>No Risk Assessment</i>	145	94	-51	-35.2	0.8

Statistics – Essex Police Recorded Incidents of Domestic Abuse – Comparison November 2023 – November 2024

Victim Based Crime	Offences				
Crime Type		2023	2024	# diff.	% diff.
Domestic Abuse	2616	2390	2616	226	9.5
- <i>High Risk Domestic Abuse</i>	271	198	271	73	36.9
- <i>Medium Risk Domestic Abuse</i>	515	318	515	197	61.9
- <i>Standard Risk Domestic Abuse</i>	1737	1675	1737	62	3.7
- <i>No Risk Assessment</i>	93	199	93	-106	-53.3

Support Services available in Tendring

A full list of support services and details were sent to members of the Task & Finish Group including services for:

- Older People experiencing Domestic Abuse
- Children and Young people experiencing Domestic Abuse
- Drug and Alcohol related Domestic Abuse
- Gypsy and Traveller Communities

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- Male Victims of Domestic Abuse
- Honour Based Abuse (including FGM)
- Stalking

Following a robust procurement process, the following four providers have been confirmed to deliver domestic abuse support services in Essex, Southend and Thurrock from 1 April 2025:

- Safe Steps
- The Next Chapter (East of England)
- Changing Pathways
- Cranstoun Services Ltd.

The Next Chapter, Safe Steps and Changing Pathways are existing providers of domestic abuse services and will be working as a consortium called Ending Violence in Essex (EVIE). EVIE will deliver support for both adult and child victims. Cranstoun Services Ltd is an incoming provider and will deliver perpetrator support.

Building on the strengths of current services, and jointly commissioning services with partners, will help ensure there is consistent, high-quality support in place across Essex, Southend and Thurrock.

Essex Compass will remain the single point of access for people needing support across Greater Essex up to and from 1 April 2025. Therefore, colleagues will need to continue using the current referral process. Perpetrator support will also be accessed through Essex Compass from 1 April 2025.

The Nest at Next Chapter provides specialist safe accommodation in North East Essex for women who are experiencing domestic abuse and substance use challenges. Delivered by Next Chapter, and supported by Open Road, The Nest offers a secure, trauma-informed environment where women can rebuild their lives with safety, stability, and support.

A full programme of support is usually around six months and residents will be supported with suitable ongoing housing options and will be provided with resettlement support, as well as longer term community support for those settling locally.

Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board – Information and Annual Report

The link below is for the SETDAB Annual Report

<https://setdab.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/SETDAB-Annual-Report-2020-2021-Web-Version-1.pdf>

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The SETDAB Strategy for 2020 – 2025 has five outcomes. A new strategy for 2025 – 2030 is being developed.

2020-2025 Strategy and our 5 outcomes:

The Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Strategy was launched in May 2020 and the five outcomes identified within the Strategy are the focus of our work. All our outcomes have delivery plans in place which are monitored by SETDAB.

Outcome 1:

Children and young people can recognise and form healthy relationships.

Outcome 2:

People experiencing and at risk of experiencing domestic abuse are supported to be and feel safe.

Outcome 3:

Everyone can rebuild their lives and live free from domestic abuse.

Outcome 4:

Supporting and disrupting perpetrators to change their behaviour and break the cycle of domestic abuse.

Outcome 5:

Communities, professionals and employers are able to recognise domestic abuse at the earliest opportunity and have the confidence to take action.

Presentations from Essex Police (verbal presentation), Next Chapter (Powerpoint) and The Change Programme (they were not available to attend on the day but sent a video clip of their service area).

Who are NEXT CHAPTER.pptx

<https://youtu.be/dwFFS9FvP18>

WENDY BRYNE – ESSEX POLICE

Wendy is responsible for the Domestic Abuse Problem Solving Team (DAPST) which are based as part of the North LPA (Local Policing Area) this team covers the Tendring District.

The team was set up to target high risk offenders who have been identified as a potential domestic homicide perpetrator.

There are four main strands that the team deal with:

- **Puffin nominals**

- The nominals are run through an algorithm and if the nominal meets different parts of the algorithm, the system will flag them up. (This will then allow the team to manage the perpetrator and disrupt them so they are less of a risk to their victims.)

- **MAPPA (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements)**

- MAPPA meetings take place weekly to discuss high-risk offenders that are coming out of prison being released back into the community and their trigger offence is DA (Domestic Abuse) related.

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- At present, Wendy manages 18 MAPPA and 48 Puffin Nominals in North LPA

- Orders

- Police Officers can utilise certain orders for victims of domestic assault. Officers can use orders that assist with the management of victims and defendants.
- DVPN (Domestic Violence Protection Notice) which can become a DVPO (Domestic Violence Protection Order), once the order is granted at the court, they usually last for around 28 days and are designed to give the victim space from the perpetrator.
- DAPST Officers police the orders and make sure that they are being adhered to.
- Similarly, there are also Stalking Protection Orders. This is often a trigger offence in a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR).

- Clare's Law/Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme

- Police have a power where they can go and tell somebody that their new partner have a history of domestic abuse convictions.
- Gives people the chance to make informed decisions and then the DAPST can offer ongoing safeguarding and protection going forward.

DAPST are a team of 19 in the area. Essex Police lead the way with regards to Problem Solving Domestic Abuse cases, they set the precedence for all the other Police forces how they deal and manage domestic abuse perpetrators.

DAPST do not get involved in investigation of cases, that is a different team within Essex Police.

QUESTIONS:	ANSWERS:
<i>Is there a big case load in the Tendring area that TDC Officers and Councillors should be aware of?</i>	<i>If we look at MAPPA Cases, which are people coming out of prison and being put on Probation, Tendring have 4 out of 13. That is a significant proportion just for Tendring alone.</i> <i>DAPST probably split 50/50 of their resources between Colchester and Tendring. There is a sub-office in Clacton which Officers can work out of and integrate with the teams that are at that police station, they will brief other teams on the people that are being targeted.</i>
<i>How does being a 'disrupter' work?</i>	<i>The team give a perpetrator the chance to change their behaviour.</i> <i>We current use the Change Project who work with offenders to find out why they offend and how to stop it from happening. They identify the risk factors/trigger points and they run a Government approved programme that enables them to work with these people in hope that they can turn their behaviour around. Sometimes punishment is not the answer.</i> <i>There are offenders out there that do not want to engage and get the help and as soon as DAPST know they have a new partner then someone from DAPST will go to their house and give them the Clare's Law disclosure.</i>

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	<i>We also use covert tactics.</i>
<i>Once on licence and offenders fail to go to their approved premises, do you send them back to prison?</i>	<i>Probation will generate a warrant. DAPST will have a covert team secretly watching the offender, Probation will confirm the warrant has been secured, the covert team are told that they can arrest the offender.</i>
<i>Do you co-manage offenders that come from other areas outside of Essex?</i>	<i>Yes, if they are a MAPPA nominal. As a Puffin nominal, not every police force has a DAPST team yet so do not have Puffin nominals. As long as the perpetrator has a domestic abuse offence then it would be flagged up to the team in the area.</i>
<i>What have you found that causes people to commit domestic abuse?</i>	<i>That is difficult to answer. Around 30% of domestic abusers have been in a house that has had domestic violence happen historically. Or have been in a abusive relationship during their childhood. A lot of the time, it comes down to power and control. The DAIT (Domestic Abuse Investigation Team also deal with incidents of Grooming, Love Bombing and other types of narcissistic behaviour (the sort of behaviour that Andrew Tate portrays). Nikki from Next Chapter mentioned adverse childhood experiences and perpetrators tend to build a unhealthy co-dependant relationship with their victims.</i>
<i>Can you see a pattern of behaviour?</i>	<i>You usually can yes. There is a training package within Essex Police outlining signs and symptoms. In the case of stalking, stalkers tend to mirror their patterns of behaviour for example leaving flowers / gifts, hacking accounts, using Spyware or infiltrating victims social media.</i>
<i>Do you find that offenders are being released too early?</i>	<i>We manage them when they come and if they breach their licence then they are sent back to prison and DAPST have not received any push back on being sent back to prison if they breach their licence.</i>
<i>Do you get a lot of female violence against men?</i>	<i>There is not a lot of female violence, but they are treated the exact same.</i>

NIKKI TAYLOR – NEXT CHAPTER:

- ▶ Vision: Life without Domestic Abuse
- ▶ Mission: Providing rapid responses to domestic abuse that increase safety for all victims, enabling them to rebuild their lives & create lasting change. Raising awareness through education, training & partnerships in our community
- ▶ History: We have been in existence since the early 70's when the feminist movement began to take action towards creating safe space for women who were being abused by their husbands. Formerly known as Colchester and Tendring Women's Refuge.
- ▶ Today: in 2019 we underwent a rebrand and became known as Next Chapter. We support survivors regardless of their gender and we work with clients in the community as well as those seeking refuge. We became the PFCC commissioned service in 2019 to provide domestic abuse support to anyone living across North and Mid Essex

What services do we provide?

- ▶ Refuge
 - ▶ 12-unit standard refuge accommodation
 - ▶ 9-unit recovery refuge
 - ▶ Dispersed Housing

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- ▶ Resettlement Worker
- ▶ Community outreach
 - ▶ High risk – IDVA support
 - ▶ Medium and standard risk - DAP support
 - ▶ RISE programme / Ready to RISE guided learning programme
- ▶ Children Young Person's Team
 - ▶ Family Practitioners – one to one recovery with the children alongside parenting support to the non-abusive parent
 - ▶ YIPVA – support high risk young people to reduce risk
 - ▶ Hand in Hand – parenting / child programme TRIBE – child only programme
 - ▶ CAPVA – Child to parent violence programme

What support do we offer?

- ▶ Walk alongside our clients to offer client led support which is both practical and emotional and is specifically about meeting their needs in relation to what is happening and where they want to do.
 - ▶ Trauma informed and support therapeutically
 - ▶ Validating and allowing clients to feel safe and able to build trust
 - ▶ Empowering survivors to engage in a journey of change – strengths-based approach
- ▶ Advocacy to ensure clients' needs and circumstances are recognised and considered.
 - ▶ Elegantly challenge victim blaming
 - ▶ Education around what is domestic abuse and the impact of trauma and how this can present
- ▶ Risk led.
 - ▶ Ongoing risk assessment monitoring and safety planning
 - ▶ Safeguarding
- ▶ Practical support
 - ▶ Housing, benefits, legal signposting, mental health signposting

QUESTIONS:	ANSWERS:
<i>Has the refuge seen an uptake in victims that would become homeless?</i>	<p><i>Being homeless can be a barrier as to why people do not leave abusive relationships because they have got nowhere else to go. They do not have the financial ability to do so and so on. Domestic abuse can be an imbalance of power. One person going into a relationship that wants all of the power and holds all the cards and then the other who does not have an equal say or have the ability to have their voice heard.</i></p> <p><i>There are far more routes for people to report domestic abuse these days and to get advice and guidance which is now at the fingertips of people to get the support they need and to get them to a place where they do feel okay to seek professional support.</i></p>
<i>Are you on the frontline app?</i>	<i>Yes, we are.</i>

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<i>Do you get the children that abuse parents that have no domestic abuse history in the household?</i>	<i>We do not look at that data so that could not be answered correctly but from a professional opinion, usually some sort of violence or abuse in their childhood has happened.</i>
<i>How is the refuge funded?</i>	<i>It is funded by Councils, but it is funded almost on a reciprocal arrangement. It is County funded and also part of the PFCC funding as well as it runs the domestic abuse services. Refuge space is covered by housing benefits. People in employment would have to pay themselves.</i>
BACKGROUND PAPERS AND PUBLISHED REFERENCE MATERIAL	
None	
APPENDICES	
None	
REPORT CONTACT OFFICER(S)	
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