

Imogen Statham
Domestic Abuse Commissioning Manager
Housing and Capital Programmes Team
Adult Social Services
Norfolk County Council
Bay 6, Floor 3
County Hall
Martineau Lane
Norwich
NR1 2DH

30 November 2021

Dear Imogen

Re: Consultation Response – Support in Safe Accommodation Strategy for Norfolk 2021-2024

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this very important piece of work.

Members of North Norfolk District Council are very concerned about the levels of domestic abuse in the North Norfolk District Council area and in particular about the potential level of hidden abuse being experienced by our older and more vulnerable residents. For this reason domestic abuse is a very important issue for us and we are cognisant of the trauma experienced by survivors and the lasting impact this can have on their lives.

We acknowledge the difficulties highlighted in the Needs Assessment and will work with partners to improve the availability and quality of data in order to identify the true gap in the provision of safe accommodation.

We acknowledge that there is provision of safe accommodation in the North Norfolk District Council area. We are aware however that this accommodation will not necessarily be of a type or in the location wanted by survivor victims of domestic abuse and even if it is of a type and in a location of their choice that it is unlikely that it will be available when they need it. We therefore believe that there should be greater choice for survivor victims of domestic abuse to meet their accommodation needs both at the time of fleeing and for building a future safe from abuse. It is for this reason that we believe that the definition of safe accommodation is too narrow and that support should be able to be accessed in a wider range of accommodation settings so that provisions can be made for all needs groups in their area of choice.

We also acknowledge that some survivors will want to or may need to relocate and start afresh and so provision needs to be made to enable this; both provision in North Norfolk for those fleeing from elsewhere and provision outside of North Norfolk for those residents of North Norfolk fleeing.

We strongly support the notion of co-production and those with lived experience being able to share this in order to improve the accommodation and support offer.

We welcome the opportunity to work with partners to deliver this strategy and improve the lives of survivors of domestic abuse.

This response has been developed in consultation with Cllr Wendy Fredericks, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Benefits and Cllr Virginia Gay, Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Wellbeing and Culture. We have advised our wider membership of the draft strategy and the opportunity to comment. The draft strategy will be considered further at the Cabinet meeting on 5 January 2022.

Kind regards

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