



Male Domestic Abuse Network February 2022

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Chair of Trustees*

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Latest Timetable: DA Act 2021

- Oct 21: [Safe Accommodation Statutory Guidance](#) - enacted
- Nov 21: [Domestic Abuse Commissioner](#) - enacted
- Jan 22: Children as Victims – enacted
- 8 March 22 (IWD) – Statutory Guidance
- Early 22: Special measures in criminal proceedings for offences involving domestic abuse
- May 22: Controlling or coercive behaviour in an intimate or family relationship (including end of “household test”)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-act-2021-commencement-schedule/domestic-abuse-act-2021-commencement-schedule>

Other Government Developments

- **January:** Every Tier 1 council publishes Safe Accommodation Strategy (some but not a lot of progress on male victims)
- **Feb 22:** [£125 million for councils](#) to provide vital support services for domestic abuse victims during 2022/23 to go towards healthcare, social workers and benefits, interpreters, immigration advice and other specialist services
- **28 Feb:** VAWG Communications Campaign
- **Imminent:**
 - Domestic Abuse Strategy
 - VAWG National Statement of Expectations (what the Government expect public bodies to do)
 - VAWG Commissioning Toolkit (what and how public bodies should commission services)
 - Male Victims Statement (sits alongside and connects to VAWG and DA Strategy – we would prefer parallel strategy)
 - Child Maintenance Service Review and DA

In Parliament

- **Victims Bill and Victims Law**

“...guarantee greater consultation with them during the criminal justice process to ensure their voices are properly heard, and hold Agencies such as the police, Crown Prosecution Service and courts service to appropriately account for the service they provide to victims.”

Consultation ended Feb 2022: Submission made

- **Online Safety Bill**

- prevent the spread of illegal content and activity such as images of child abuse, terrorist material and hate crimes, including racist abuse
- protect children from harmful material
- protect adults from legal - but harmful - content

In Parliament

- **Health and Care Bill**

“Reform the delivery and organisation of health services in England, to promote more joined-up services and to ensure more of a focus on improving health rather than simply providing health care services.

Key Issues being pushed by DA sector include:

- Ensuring specialist domestic abuse and violence against women and girls (VAWG) services are represented in the Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs): through membership, and through consultation on the strategy
- Reporting and accountability mechanisms include measures on responding to VAWG and improving outcomes for children. We recommend the Domestic Abuse Commissioner is given the power to request information from ICPs and ICBs, who must have a duty to co-operate.
- Mandatory collection of data on domestic abuse, which improves data collected on children
- Clear care and referral pathways into, partnership working with, and the commissioning of specialist services and programmes is needed for survivors and for perpetrators of domestic abuse

Other Policy

DLUHC Consultations x2 (deadline 10 May 2022)

- 1) Consider removing Local Connection Tests for abuse victims, which can stop victims from applying for social housing if they do not have a connection to a local area. “This can often mean victims are forced to live in the same communities as their abuser and are denied a fresh start in a new town.”
- 2) A second consultation will consider whether and how to change current rules that make it difficult for victims to remove their perpetrators from joint tenancies, which can mean victims either feel forced to stay in their home or are at risk of being made homeless by their abuser.

CPS: Consultations due on coercive control, DA Act and myths/stereotypes

Northern Ireland: New DA laws now in force including CC. [VAWG Consultation open](#)
(closes 7 March)

All-Party Parliamentary Group on Men and Boys: [New](#) report launched on Men’s Health Strategy and part of overarching Men’s Health Forum Campaign. [Sign Up Here](#)