



**STANDING
TOGETHER**
against domestic abuse

Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA)

Impact Report

2025

Transforming housing responses to domestic abuse

Introduction

The Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) was first launched in 2014, with an aim to drive significant and positive change in the way that the housing sector responds to domestic abuse. Since this time we have developed into an alliance of **over 170 members**, working to embed **standards of best practice** across a range of social housing, supported accommodation and homelessness settings.

Our accreditation frameworks have evolved to meet changes in legislation and regulation, whilst being focused on **supporting the housing sector to provide the best response to all survivors of domestic abuse**.

Supporting adult survivors and their children, whilst holding those who choose to perpetrate abuse to account, underpins our approach and is centred through all DAHA accreditations.

We are proud to work alongside our members, supporting them through their DAHA journey.

Having implemented DAHA Accreditation in a social housing setting prior to joining the DAHA team, I understand both the level of commitment required and the transformative impact it can have. Achieving these standards enables survivors of domestic abuse to access safety, stability, and the opportunity to rebuild their lives.

It also creates a strong, resident-focused culture within organisations. As one housing officer once shared with me:

"It is one area of my work where I can actually make a real, positive difference"

Nicki Clarke

Head of Housing at Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

DAHA & the Whole Housing Approach

The Whole Housing Approach is a framework for local authorities which enables them to meet the needs of survivors of domestic abuse, **no matter what tenure of housing they live in and no matter what their individual circumstances may be.**

DAHA Accreditation is an integral part of this framework, ensuring that not just the local authority housing and homelessness teams achieve DAHA standards, but also providers of social housing, supported accommodation and homelessness settings in the area.

This ensures that there is the most comprehensive and robust response for survivors and it eliminates the postcode lottery for survivors around whether they will receive the right response to their housing needs.

It is for this reason that any local authority who achieves DAHA Accreditation and also embeds a Whole Housing Approach is awarded our highest level of recognition of DAHA Platinum Accreditation.

We are delighted to have two local authorities who have already achieved this status and more are looking to work towards this.

This approach is underpinned by an intersectional understanding of domestic abuse, recognising that survivors' experiences are shaped by factors such as gender, ethnicity, disability, migration status, and socio-economic inequality, and that housing responses must be flexible and inclusive to reflect this.



Four years ago, when I joined, our response to domestic abuse needed urgent reform. Since then, our partnership with Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse has transformed everything: the culture, the systems, the outcomes.

Now, survivors come to us without shame. They are met with support, dignity, and real pathways to safety.

Ian Swift

Director of Housing Operations
and Deputy Corporate Director at
Islington Council

Islington Council are a Platinum Accredited DAHA member.

You can read more about their journey [here](#).

Domestic Abuse in England & Wales



3.8 million people

were living with domestic abuse
in the year ending March 2025

Women are disproportionately affected

Men do experience domestic abuse, but women are more likely to experience repeat victimisation, coercive and controlling behaviour, and are more likely to be seriously harmed or killed.



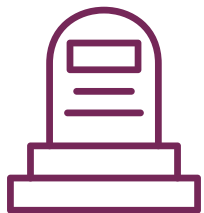
1 in 4

people aged 16 or over have
experienced domestic
abuse in their lifetime



105,000+ children

live in homes where there is
high-risk domestic abuse



8 women a month

are killed by a current or former
partner



354 suspected suicides

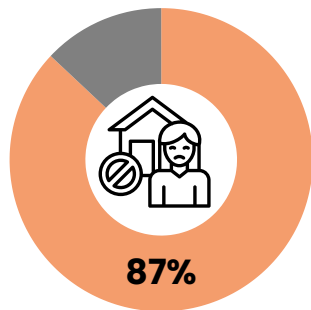
of domestic abuse victims in the
4 years leading to March 2024

Sources:

[Crime Survey for England and Wales](#), [Refuge](#), [SafeLives](#),
[Vulnerability Knowledge & Practice Programme](#), [Women's Aid](#)

Domestic abuse is a housing issue

It is a leading cause of homelessness among women.



In the year ending March 2025, **12% of all homeless households** were homeless because of domestic abuse

87% of women leave refuge for another form of temporary accommodation

Domestic abuse costs the housing and homelessness sectors an estimated **£1.8 billion per year**

Social housing residents are **7x more likely to be in rent arrears of £1,000 or more** if they are living with domestic abuse

An estimated **21% of repair costs** for social housing providers are related to domestic abuse

Tragically, home is often the most dangerous place for a woman.

In the year ending March 2024, **83% of female homicide victims were killed inside a home**; either their own or the perpetrator's

Sources:

[Homicide Index](#), [Ministry of Housing Community and Local Government](#), [SafeLives](#)

Social Housing Membership in Numbers

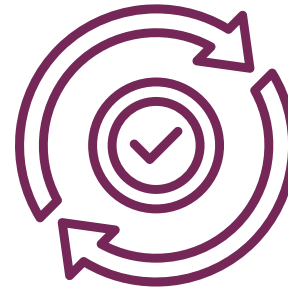
In 2025...



We had a total of

161

members



91%

of providers renewed their membership with us



We brought

14

new members on board



44

of our members were DAHA Accredited - that's nearly **one third**

Patricia's story

Patricia, now a DAHA Champion and housing professional, shares the story of her journey as a survivor. Her reflections demonstrate the power of lived experience in influencing policy, empowering communities, and building housing systems that are trauma-informed and inclusive. Her message is clear: when survivors lead, change happens.

I was born and raised in Colombia. I studied law and graduated with a brilliant degree, with many dreams for my future. I believed that moving to the UK would open doors to opportunity, safety, and growth, but I struggled to understand people, to navigate systems, even to express myself. That barrier left me isolated. And isolation can be dangerous – it makes you vulnerable.

I entered my relationship in good faith, in love, and with trust. But that trust was misused. He began controlling the smallest details of my life. What I thought was love soon became power and control.

For a long time, I didn't have the language to understand what was happening. I didn't know that controlling my money, isolating me, and forcing sex was abuse. I didn't understand that what was happening to me was a violation. Abuse doesn't always look like bruises. It can be isolation, control, silence, and shame. Women from migrant communities face unique barriers, language, racism, immigration status, that make it even harder to leave.

There were times when my son and I had nowhere safe to go. We experienced rough sleeping. Temporary accommodation was frightening, and even in refuge I sometimes felt invisible – like we were just another name on a list.

My GP, my psychiatrist, my health visitor, my counsellor, they had the training to recognise the signs of abuse. They asked the right questions. They noticed things I didn't have the courage or language to say. That was life-saving. If they hadn't seen me, if they hadn't been trained, the consequences could have been devastating. Their intervention was the first step in breaking the silence and finding safety.

When systems fail, survivors pay the price. But when professionals are trained, when housing and health services listen, they can save lives. I'm living proof of that.

Today, I work to ensure that no woman from the Latin American community, or any woman without English, is left behind. I use my experience to break barriers, to show services how to listen, and to empower women to speak up.

Being a DAHA Champion means hope. When I sit at the table with housing providers or local authorities, I'm not just a professional – I'm a survivor who has lived the consequences of when systems fail. I can say: "This is what it feels like. This is why trauma-informed, survivor-led housing is essential."

I'm proud that today I can sit in rooms with decision-makers and know that my voice – and the voices of other survivors – are shaping real change. That's what gives me hope.

Our Reach

Over 516,000

households in England and Wales are living in a home owned or managed by a DAHA accredited social housing provider¹

Over 11,886

survivors were supported by a DAHA social housing member²

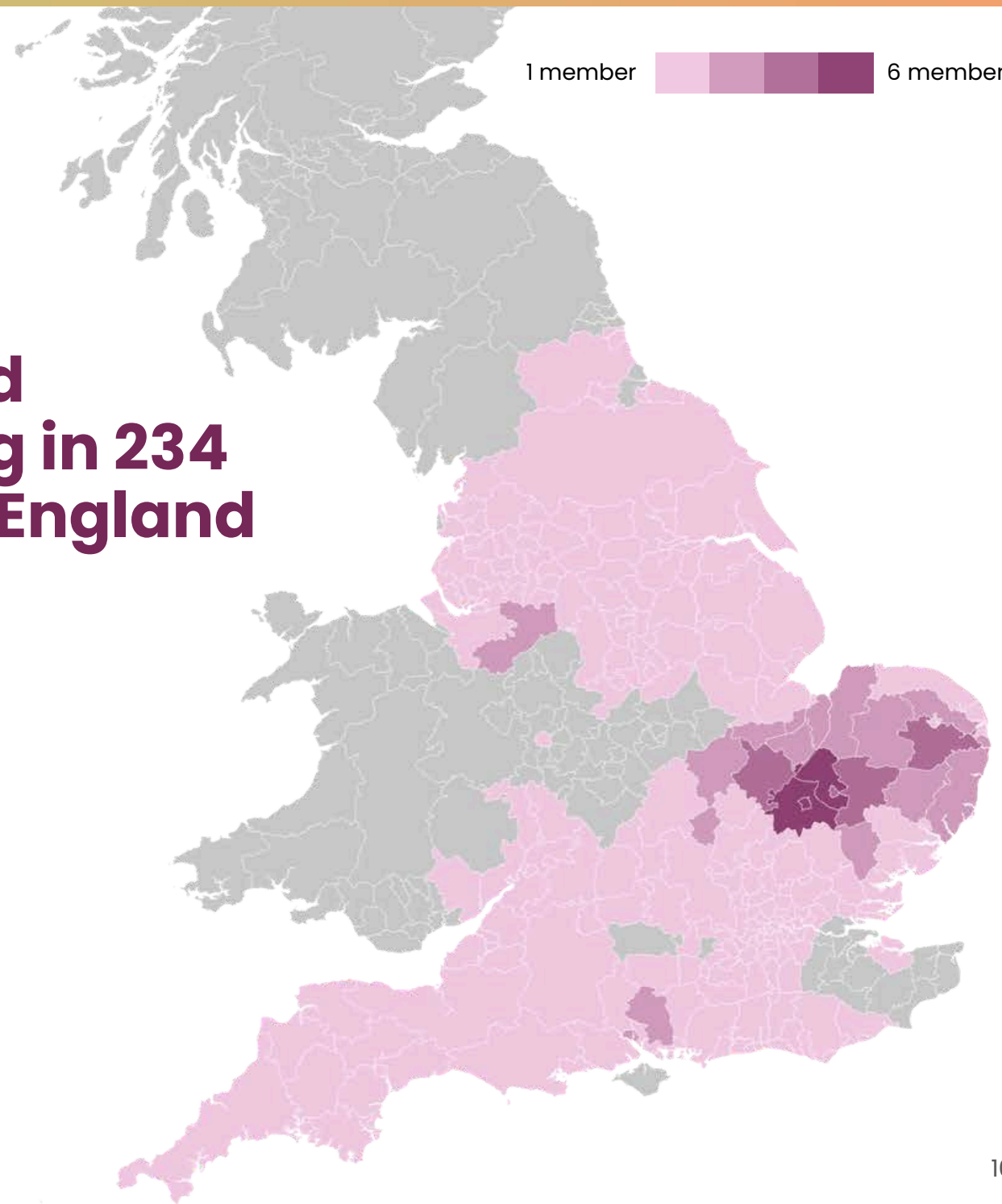


[1] Total housing stock held by stock holding accredited DAHA social housing members.

[2] Survivor data was provided by 44 (28%) social housing members. The number of survivors supported will therefore be much higher in reality.

1 member  6 members

**We have accredited
members operating in 234
local authorities in England
and Wales**





We have found DAHA accreditation to be challenging, enjoyable, hard work, stimulating and engaging; but most importantly it has led to a more accessible, knowledgeable, empathetic, person centred service for customers.

It has strengthened the wider partnership approach towards tackling domestic abuse at an operational and strategic level and helped reinforce a positive organisational culture.

Stockport Homes Group

Stockport Homes Group are an accredited DAHA member. You can read more about their journey [here](#).

A new DAHA framework

Acting on member feedback

In February 2025, we held a series of three roundtable sessions for our members. We wanted to understand how the accreditation process was working for members, and what we could do to improve it.

Members told us that although the process was meaningful, supportive and impactful, it could also be complicated and resource intensive.

Members said they would like to see:

- **A simpler accreditation framework**
- **A clearer idea of expectations**
- **Multiple levels of accreditation**

From this feedback, we developed a new, simplified framework, which we launched in April 2025. The previous framework was divided and streamlined into bronze award, silver award, and gold accreditation.

Bronze Award

The foundations necessary to build a project plan to improve responses to domestic abuse



Silver Award

Build on and strengthen the work established in bronze



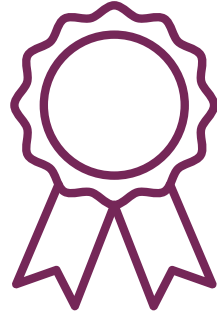
Gold Accreditation

Embed previous work and develop intersectionality, perpetrator responses and publicity



Our Work

In 2025...



We supported
13 members
to achieve accreditation
- **5 more than in 2024**



We completed
93
rounds of case reviews



We facilitated
43
focus group sessions



We completed
61
rounds of Portal reviews



We coordinated
31
Regional Group meetings

Webinars

We hosted **12** webinars attended by over **1,900** professionals.

Webinar topics in 2025 included:

- Housing as part of the coordinated community response to domestic abuse
- Furniture poverty
- Domestic abuse in the Polish community
- Outcomes from the Whole Housing Approach pilot evaluation
- Economic abuse and The Debt Trap
- Data breaches
- Pets and domestic abuse
- Domestic abuse in later life
- Domestic abuse in rural communities
- Effective perpetrator management
- Intersectionality and lived experience, and how housing responses must adapt to meet diverse needs



How a DAHA webinar directly impacted one survivor's safety

The survivor was living in a Gloucester City Homes (GCH) property but was not the tenant of the property. They were experiencing domestic abuse and the perpetrator, who was the tenant, had been removed through a Domestic Violence Protection Order. **The survivor wanted to remain living in the property.**

The local DAHA Lead attended a **DAHA webinar on managing joint tenancies** for domestic abuse survivors, and asked a question about the survivor's options to the speaker. They gave some advice about the options available, which the DAHA Lead then fed back to the Housing Options Officer from Gloucester City Council who was supporting the survivor.

The Housing Options Officer then, following the advice, contacted a solicitor who ordered a non-molestation order be put in place. This allowed space for a transfer of tenancy order to be made by the court—transferring the tenancy into the survivor's name. **The survivor was able to remain safely in their home and could begin their journey to recovery without fear of being made to relocate.**

Homelessness & Supported Accommodation

The **DAHA Homelessness & Supported Accommodation framework** was developed taking into account the unique environments of homelessness and supported accommodation settings. It is an accreditation highlighting the voices and needs of people facing domestic abuse and multiple disadvantage, ensuring they receive the believing and supportive response they deserve.

By multiple disadvantage we are referring to those with **co-occurring experiences of homelessness, substance misuse, interpersonal violence and abuse and poor mental health**.³ We recognise that **multiple disadvantage is a systemic, not an individual issue**; structural inequality creates the conditions in which experiences of poverty, abuse, trauma and neglect intersect. In addition, disadvantage is further compounded by systemic discrimination based on concepts of identity, such as age, gender, ethnicity, sexuality, disability, religion, or belief.

Despite many studies over the last 20 years showing that domestic abuse is a near-universal experience for women experiencing homelessness, it is often not considered as a support need within homelessness provisions.

The DAHA Homelessness & Supported Accommodation Accreditation is working to end this, so that domestic abuse survivors using homelessness services are seen, their voices are *heard* and their safety is *prioritised*.

Get in touch

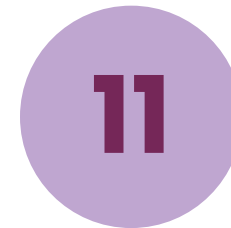
To find out more about our work including our membership pack:



Visit our website [here](#)



daha_homelessness@standingtogether.org.uk



**Homelessness & Supported
Accommodation members**



new members in 2025

[3] [Lankelly Chase: Gender Matters](#)

Single Homeless Project's journey to DAHA Accreditation

Single Homeless Project (SHP) are a homelessness charity based in London, supporting 12,000 Londoners in crisis every year to be seen and heard. SHP have many services pan-London and support their service users with accommodation, homelessness prevention and building life skills. They are well known for their influencing work around homelessness and are passionate about amplifying women's experiences of homelessness.

SHP are the first organisation to ever achieve DAHA's Homelessness & Supported Accommodation Accreditation.

In line with DAHA standards, SHP have shaped their response to domestic abuse by establishing a cross organisational steering group to meet monthly and drive the work forward, leading to a whole organisation culture change. They conducted an all-staff survey to understand staff attitudes and knowledge around domestic abuse; revealing that 40% of their staff had disclosed lived experience of domestic abuse, showing the importance of needing a staff domestic abuse response.

SHP developed a suite of domestic abuse related policies and procedures for staff and service users, created a tiered domestic abuse training offer for staff and embedded a network of domestic abuse partnership leads across the organisation. These are just a few parts of the work SHP embedded to improve their response to domestic abuse.

From our assessment we know that staff are committed to our DAHA principles by providing good responses to survivors of domestic abuse whilst holding perpetrators to account. SHP have also shown their commitment to the ongoing sustainability of their domestic abuse work, understanding that their response needs to be consistently evolved, including ongoing training, reviews of survivor's stories, and innovation to amplify the experiences of women who are homeless.

SHP staff said:

“

DAHA is important because it makes sure people experiencing domestic abuse aren't overlooked, even when they have other challenges going on. It also creates a consistent approach for my teams, and across the whole charity, so people get the same safe and supportive response wherever they turn.

“

My client's words were "I feel like I can breathe again, I feel safe and have a place I can call my own". It's days like this that show me how important it is to be Domestic Abuse Lead and to continue to make a difference to make survivors feel safe and stop domestic abuse.

Training

DAHA and Multiple Disadvantage & Homelessness training forms a key part of the DAHA accreditation framework. Our training team has developed a comprehensive catalogue of role-specific courses for the housing and homelessness sector, ensuring professionals can access training tailored to their roles. This includes supporting housing professionals to take an intersectional approach, ensuring responses are inclusive and responsive to the diverse experiences of survivors.

In 2025...

61

training courses completed

705

professionals successfully completed courses

After completing training...

88%

of professionals agreed/strongly agreed that their awareness of domestic abuse had improved

72%

of professionals said they felt very/extremely confident about responding to a disclosure of domestic abuse



You can find out more about our training offer via our website [here](#)

Attendees said:

“

The more focus we have on DA and the more input received, the better equipped we are to support survivors. The training added to my knowledge and also enhanced my confidence in dealing with these cases.

“

There is an increase in domestic abuse calls especially within the housing sector and I know [our staff] struggle with how to support these residents and can sometimes be a trigger for themselves, so it is really great for me to be available...to help support in anyway I can.

“

It strengthens and re-enforces knowledge I had, but also updated and corrected my 'older' training and helps with confidence in addressing identified concerns.

Feedback from survivors supported by housing professionals trained through DAHA-accredited services highlights the real-world impact of trauma-informed services:

“

I feel 100% safer now.

“

You listened to me and made me feel like a valued human being. You have given me my life back.

“

Without this service...I don't think I could have left. Thank you for believing in me, finding me somewhere safe to stay and getting me the support I needed.

“

I can sleep safely in my home now, which is a big relief.

Our Influence

DAHA influences national policy through its Housing and Domestic Abuse Policy & Practice Group—ensuring survivor voices and housing expertise shape lasting, systemic change. The group has representatives from the domestic abuse, LGBTQ+, housing and homelessness sectors.

The group works together on a national level to ensure that:

- The experiences of survivors of domestic abuse are heard across the housing sector in order to improve and enhance service delivery.
- All survivors can access secure housing and good quality services when experiencing domestic abuse.
- Coordination exists between the housing and Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) sectors with regard to domestic abuse.

This includes a continued commitment to embedding intersectional practice across the housing sector, ensuring that policies and responses are equitable, inclusive, and reflect the realities of all survivors.



You can find out more about our policy and influencing work via our website [here](#)

In 2025 we:

Championed responses to domestic abuse that include and empower LGBTQ+ survivors

Supported our members to navigate the evolving policy landscape, particularly what the National Plan to End Homelessness and the VAWG Strategy mean for our membership

Provided a voice for our members around the need for government to reform the existing joint tenancy arrangements

Welcomed the statutory definition of 'honour'-based abuse and reaffirmed our commitment to addressing this through an intersectional, anti-racist lens

Raised member concerns with government around how local connection criteria contained within Section 106 agreements prevents survivors from accessing safe and secure housing

Our LinkedIn Reach

In 2025, DAHA used LinkedIn to reach and influence over 15,000 housing, policy professionals and various stakeholders - sharing best practice, survivor insight and sector-leading learning.

Our digital reach plays a key role in driving sector-wide change - ensuring that knowledge, learning and survivor voices reach those shaping housing responses across the sector.

28,179

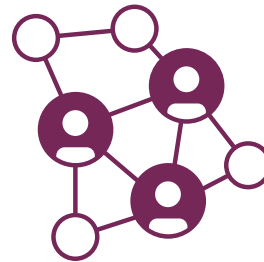
total views of our content



We reached

15,072

professionals



554

new followers



You can follow our LinkedIn page [here](#)



You have given me the tools to function in my world and be able to heal. You can't put a price on feeling safe in your own home.

A survivor supported by a DAHA member

DAHA membership represents an investment in safer housing systems - embedding consistent, trauma-informed practice that improves outcomes for residents and reduces risk across organisations.



For more information about investing in DAHA membership, read our 'Sustaining Safer Housing Systems' blog [here](#)

Get in touch



You can find out more about our work via our website [**here**](#)



You can find out more about how to become a DAHA member [**here**](#)



[**daha_membership@standingtogether.org.uk**](mailto:daha_membership@standingtogether.org.uk)