

Parish Information Sheet



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From:	Somerset Domestic Abuse Service
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To:	All Clerks
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Date:	01 October 2026
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New Somerset Domestic Abuse Strategy 2026 to 2029

What's happened?

Somerset Council and its partners have launched a new Domestic Abuse Strategy on 01 October 2026.

The strategy sets out how organisations across Somerset will work together to prevent domestic abuse, support victims and families, and hold people who cause harm to account. It reflects local evidence, including the 2024 Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment.

Domestic abuse can affect anyone. It is often hidden and under-reported, so raising awareness of the help available is vital.

The six priorities

The strategy focuses on:

- Prevent domestic abuse through awareness campaigns, accessible information, professional training and survivor input.
- Improve understanding of familial abuse through campaigns, clearer guidance and stronger referral routes.
- Provide safe accommodation and support by assessing local needs, exploring new housing options and improving referral pathways.

- Improve responses to people who cause harm through stronger policies, professional training, public information and behaviour-change support.
- Make support more inclusive by improving referral data, reaching underrepresented groups and acting on lived experience.
- Improve support for children through updated policies, targeted campaigns and age-appropriate learning resources.

These priorities will guide work in health, housing, social care, education, criminal justice and community services. The aim is to offer a safer and more consistent response whenever someone asks for help.

Read the strategy here: [Somerset Domestic Abuse Strategy 2026-2029](#)

Read the press release here: [Somerset launches new strategy to tackle domestic abuse](#)

How you can help

City, town and parish councils are trusted voices within your communities, and you can help raise awareness of the support available by:

- Sharing information about the strategy through your council newsletters, websites and social media channels.
- Engaging with and sharing our social media posts:
 - [Facebook post](#)
 - [Instagram post](#)
- Displaying posters or information in community venues, noticeboards and public spaces where appropriate.
- Raising awareness at city, town and parish council meetings.
- Sharing information with local community groups, schools, faith groups, businesses and voluntary organisations.
- Encouraging residents to learn about the signs of domestic abuse and where to get help.
- Signposting anyone who may need support to the Somerset Domestic Abuse Service.

Please take care not to ask anyone to share personal experiences publicly. If someone discloses abuse, listen without judgement and direct them to specialist support.

Support and advice

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic abuse, contact the [Somerset Domestic Abuse Service](#).

Call 0800 69 49 999, 8am to 8pm, seven days a week.

Get online advice and access our live chat (open 10am-4pm, Monday- Friday)

In an emergency, call 999. If you cannot speak, press 55 when prompted to be connected to the police.

About delivery

The Somerset Domestic Abuse Board will oversee the strategy. A joint action plan will set out responsibilities, timescales and the outcomes partners want to achieve for victims and survivors.

If you have any questions, please contact Heidi Hill, Project Change and Improvement Officer, heidi.hill@somerset.gov.uk.