

Appendix 1

Bedford Borough Council
Domestic Abuse Strategic Priorities
2026 - 2031

**Public Consultation:
Results, Feedback and Responses**



Contents

Appendix 1: Bedford Borough Council Domestic Abuse Strategic Priorities 2026 - 2031 Public Consultation: Results, Feedback and Responses	1
Priority 1 – Prevention: Reduce Harm and Intervene Earlier	3
Priority 2 – Immediate Needs: Support and Respond to Individual Needs	10
Priority 3 – Disrupt: Intervene with those who Cause Harm and Reduce Re-offending	14
Priority 4 – Partnership: Work with Partners to Deliver a Skilled Trauma-informed Workforce and Survivor-centred Culture	21
Priority 5 – Recovery: Embedding Long-term Recovery Pathways	25
Summary of Key Themes from Consultation Responses	30
The Strategic Priority Placement	33

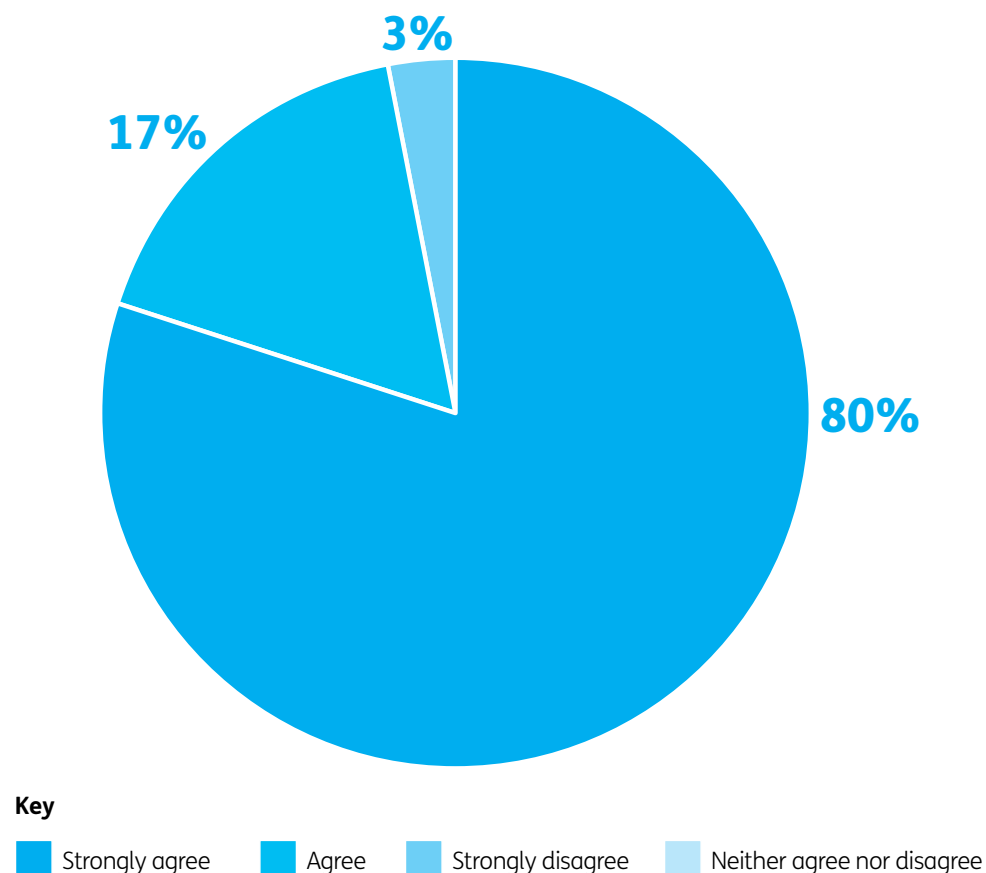
Priority 1 – Prevention: Reduce Harm and Intervene Earlier

This priority is about reducing the likelihood of domestic abuse occurring in the first place by addressing risks early, challenging harmful behaviours, and strengthening safe, healthy relationship norms.

It focuses on early identification, increased community understanding, and timely, proportionate support.

By intervening sooner and creating safer environments, we can disrupt escalation and help prevent harm before it develops.

“To what extent do you agree or disagree this being a priority in the domestic abuse strategy?”



Comments	Responses
<i>Make any AP's attend a behaviour change course, make it mandatory for known AP's.</i>	Thank-you for your comment. We actively encourage individuals who use abusive behaviours to seek support for behaviour change. In Bedfordshire, the Chrysalis Centre offers a dedicated behaviour change programme. As a Local Authority, we do not have the legal power to mandate attendance at such courses.
<i>No one should have to go through this and there should be more help and support in this better understanding.</i>	<p>Thank-you for your comment. Bedford Borough Council works in partnership with both local and national service providers to ensure a wide range of support services are available to meet the needs of victim-survivors and their children. As noted above, behaviour change programmes are also in place to support individuals who use abusive behaviours. The Bedfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership (BDAP) website provides comprehensive information on domestic abuse and guidance on where to access help and support.</p> <p>We recognise that there are gaps in current services and areas where further provision is needed. This strategy aims to address those concerns by creating an action plan that ensures existing services continue to meet identified needs, while also exploring opportunities to develop additional services where gaps have been identified, subject to funding constraints.</p>
<i>There needs to be much more education so that people can understand when behaviours are harmful. I worry that my children may have not realised they grew up in a household with an abusive relationship, and if I say something now, it might just be dismissed as badmouthing my ex.</i>	<p>Thank you for sharing your concern, it is completely understandable to worry about how past experiences might be perceived and the impact on your children's understanding of healthy relationships. This is a critical issue, and we want to ensure that education plays a key role in addressing it.</p> <p>A key focus of this strategy is to promote awareness of healthy and unhealthy relationships through education and prevention initiatives. In addition, the government's recently published National Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy includes a dedicated section on education around healthy relationships, reinforcing the importance of this work.</p>
<i>By getting the information out there on the different types of Abuse. Coercive & financial control are not as widely spoken about as physical abuse.</i>	<p>Thank you for your comment. We completely agree that raising awareness is essential. We work in partnership across Bedford to increase understanding of domestic abuse, including the diverse types and how they can affect individuals and families. For more information and resources, please visit the Bedfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership (BDAP) website: Home Bedfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership.</p> <p>We recognise that there is always more we can do, and we are committed to continually improving the information and support available to ensure that everyone has access to clear, accurate guidance on domestic abuse.</p>

Comments	Responses
<i>This needs to involve conversations about the manosphere and gender. Technology based abuse also needs to be included. This also needs to involve a sophisticated understanding of coercive control.</i>	Thank you for your comment, with which we completely concur. We will be working closely with our partners to ensure the content of relationship courses and other educational programmes addresses the critical and sensitive topics impacting young people today, particularly in the context of an ever-evolving digital world.
<i>Younger generations being educated and aware, helping charities advertise their services, leaflets through doors, signposting.</i>	Thank-you for your comment. We collaborate closely with partners and charities to promote awareness of domestic abuse and the support services available. In addition, we deliver training designed to build knowledge and skills across the sector in Bedford, ensuring professionals understand referral options and pathways to help those affected.
<i>These organisations are just making money from a problem. You need to address the Muslim community about domestic abuse as they brush it under the table. It is a very big problem in the Muslim community</i>	<p>Thank-you for your comment. Domestic abuse can affect anyone, regardless of religious beliefs, culture, age, sex, gender, or socio-economic status. Unfortunately, in many parts of the world, domestic abuse is often minimised or ignored, or brushed under the carpet, leading to systemic silencing of victims and survivors across all communities.</p> <p>Domestic abuse is fundamentally a human issue that transcends culture, race, and belief systems, it does not belong to any one group. Bedford Borough Council's Strategy is inclusive of all people experiencing Domestic Abuse.</p>
<i>Promotion across all communities, in all languages, via medias, fliers, posters with QR codes to access in own languages. Promoting CLARES LAW.</i>	Thank-you for your comment. We are committed to making our outreach and promotion as inclusive as possible, ensuring that it reflects all cultures and languages to reach communities that are often harder for us to engage with. We also welcome support from community groups to help us develop this work further and increase awareness of domestic abuse and the services available.
<i>Education in schools on domestic abuse - types, signs, who to go to for help... like the day children had in XXX where they followed through a crime investigation with Police.</i>	That sounds like a fantastic initiative with the Police at XXX school. Education in schools about domestic abuse, including the different types, warning signs, and where to seek help is essential. Our goal is to ensure this work has a meaningful impact and is delivered consistently so that all children have access to this important education.
<i>The Police don't do enough I have told them loads of times I just put up with it now.</i>	Thank-you for your comment. We are sorry to hear that you are experiencing abuse, and that you feel you have had to put up with it. Have you had the opportunity to engage with any local support services? They may be able to advocate on your behalf and support you in raising your concerns with the Police. Information about both local and national support services, including how to access help, is available on the Bedfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership (BDAP): BDAP Website .

Comments	Responses
<i>Educating so people realise they are worth more than the abuse they are suffering should be a main priority.</i>	Thank you for your comment. Helping survivors recognise their worth is vital. We aim to commission services that deliver a strengths-based approach, meaning support workers and advocates focus on highlighting each survivor’s resilience and achievements. This approach helps reframe negative experiences and supports individuals on their journey to rediscover their strength and rebuild self-esteem, empowering them to see that there is a way out and that they deserve so much more than abuse.
<i>Unsure how this will be delivered? Do you mean more education on healthy relationships or intervention once disruption has occurred.</i>	Thank-you for your comment. The aim is to deliver both. Education on healthy relationships is a key priority, as it helps prevent abuse before it occurs by giving young people the knowledge and confidence to recognise harmful behaviours and seek help early. At the same time, we recognise the importance of intervention when disruption has already happened. This includes ensuring that support services, referral pathways, and behaviour change programmes are available and accessible for those affected.
<i>There should be more support for people who are informal/formal carers. Carers in crisis increases (in my opinion) increases risk of domestic physical abuse occurring.</i>	<p>Thank you for raising this important point. We recognise that carers, both formal and informal, play a vital role and that caring responsibilities can sometimes lead to significant stress and crisis situations. This can increase vulnerability within households, which is why supporting carers is an essential part of reducing risk and promoting safety.</p> <p>Through joint work with our Adult Social Care colleagues and external partners, we can seek to ensure carers have access to appropriate support services, advice, and respite options. By addressing carer wellbeing, we can help prevent situations from escalating and reduce the risk of harm. Thank you again for highlighting this critical issue, it will inform our ongoing work.</p>
<i>This will be a more longer term priority. You will need to have people in place to delivery this. Move this to Priority 5 - still look at short term/ quick wins/ medium term and the long term within this Priority.</i>	Thank you. Yes, education as a form of prevention is a long-term priority, and it is essential if we are to make real progress in reducing the persistent statistics around domestic abuse. Early intervention through education helps young people understand healthy relationships, recognise harmful behaviours, and know where to seek help. This proactive approach is key to creating lasting change.

Comments	Responses
<p><i>Educating from a young age including cultural norms which can be harmful behaviour is. Having skilled practitioners in educational settings to educate and explore. Within the adult world we have limited support for therapeutic work with people who cause harm. BBC have taken the line of holding people accountable which is great but does support sustainable change. Shame responses and survival tactics from abusers will grow. The work also needs to be 121 and face to face.</i></p>	<p>Thank you for your comment and we agree that a range of options is essential. Our approach laid out in the strategy includes education from an early age on healthy and unhealthy relationships as well as providing behaviour change programmes for adults. These programmes aim to offer meaningful opportunities for individuals to reflect, take accountability, and work towards sustainable change.</p> <p>We recognise that this work needs to be delivered in a variety of formats, including one to one support, group sessions, and both online and face to face provision, to ensure it is accessible and effective for those who need it. The Chrysalis Centre, which delivers behaviour change work across Bedfordshire, undertakes an assessment of need to provide a holistic and appropriate response for individuals who use harmful behaviours. While holding people to account is an essential component of domestic abuse work, incorporating a therapeutic approach helps to reduce shame based responses and supports meaningful, sustainable change.</p> <p>We acknowledge that no single method is suitable for everyone, and we therefore aim to commission services that can meet a broad range of needs.</p>
<p><i>The Police need more powers to intervene earlier</i></p>	<p>Part of the new National Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy is to ensure that Domestic Abuse Protection Notices (DAPNs) and Domestic Abuse Protection Orders (DAPOs) are rolled out nationally. Currently, these measures are only available in certain areas as part of a pilot scheme. For more information, please see: Domestic Abuse Protection Notices (DAPNs) and Domestic Abuse Protection Orders (DAPOs) - GOV.UK.</p> <p>These orders provide the Police with more options to quickly remove perpetrators and include both restrictive measures (such as electronic tagging) and positive requirements (such as attendance at behaviour change programmes). As a local authority, we work in partnership with the Police and will support the introduction of these orders as they come into force.</p>

Comments	Responses
<p><i>Because the longer it is left, the more serious it becomes, and the longer any support is required - often from local services, so it is really short sighted to believe that it's fine to ignore the earlier signs/behaviours. It also impacts children, possibly leading to another generation who don't challenge harmful behaviours.</i></p>	<p>We agree that early intervention is vital, to help prevent risk escalating and ongoing harm.</p>
<p><i>It depends what you mean by all of these words and phrases. If the emphasis is on "trauma informed" working with perpetrators which really means acknowledging his trauma but not the trauma he creates, and "ACEs scores" the latter now recognized as poor practice, then you're behind the curve and need to catch up.</i></p>	<p>Thank you for sharing your perspective. We appreciate the importance of staying aligned with best practice and evolving approaches in domestic abuse work. Holding perpetrators accountable is a key priority for us, and we are actively working to embed this into our services. For example, we currently have a two-year programme within Children's Services in partnership with Respect UK, delivering the Safe and Together model. This approach focuses on accountability while prioritising the safety and wellbeing of children and non-abusive parents.</p> <p>"The Safe & Together Model™ is an international, perpetrator pattern-based framework for transforming how systems and practitioners respond to domestic abuse and child maltreatment. It applies a child-centred, strengths-based, and systems-informed approach that shifts the focus from blaming protective caregivers to holding perpetrators accountable as parents."</p> <p>For more information Safe & Together Institute Strengthen Your Practice & Improve Family Outcomes.</p>
<p><i>It is important that we send out a clear message to communities and families that any form of abuse is not acceptable to prevent future abuse or harm. This can also only be achieved if relevant funding was made available to local grassroots charities to undertake preventive work within grassroots communities.</i></p>	<p>Thank you for highlighting the importance of funding grassroots charities. We will be reviewing the new government funding linked to the National Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy to ensure that resources are allocated to the most appropriate services.</p> <p>Our aim is to support organisations that can make a real impact in our local communities and help us reach those who need it most.</p>

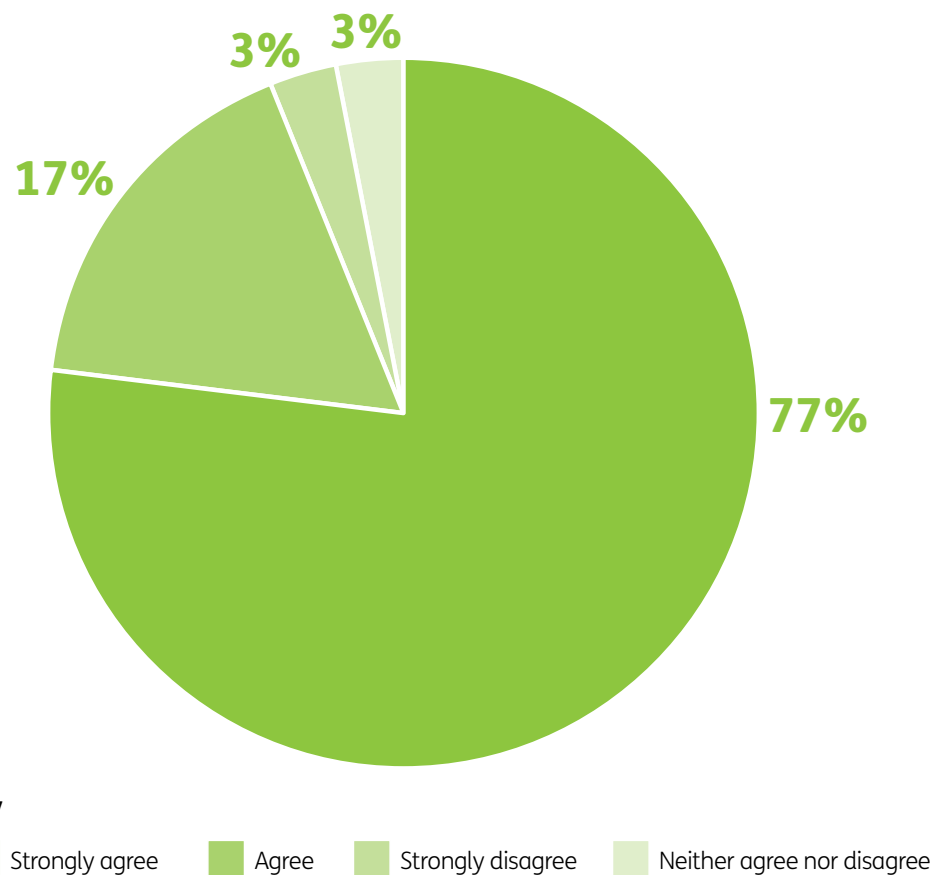
Comments	Responses
<p><i>All four agencies: GPs, Police, social services and schools need to be involved from the start. GPs have knowledge of violence in the home before anyone else. Police to respond without delay and take harsh measures to protect the abused in particular the children. Social services to take appropriate relevant immediate action to remove and safeguard families. Schools to be more proactive and alert to DV. All four agencies MUST work together in a simple plan without deviation or customising it to suit their convenience. Heavy sanctions should be imposed by law for those who deviate.</i></p>	<p>Thank-you for your comment. Effective partnership working and a coordinated community response are essential to tackling domestic abuse. No single agency can address this issue alone.</p> <p>Our strategy emphasises collaboration between health services, police, social care, education, and the voluntary sector to ensure early identification, timely intervention, and consistent safeguarding measures. By working together, we can provide a unified response that prioritises the safety and wellbeing of victims and survivors, especially children.</p>

Priority 2 – Immediate Needs: Support and Respond to Individual Needs

This priority is about ensuring that anyone experiencing domestic abuse which includes children and young people, can access the right help quickly and safely.

It highlights the importance of person-centred, inclusive, and responsive support that meets individual needs and promotes safety and wellbeing.

“ To what extent do you agree or disagree this being a priority in the domestic abuse strategy? ”



Comments	Responses
<i>Sometimes the situation is so urgent and immediate, that help is needed quickly (nb see typo above, which says 'quicky' rather than 'quickly' - but it might be too late to change this).</i>	Thank-you for your comment, and we agree that responsive services are essential in emergency situations. Most of our support services aim to respond within 48 hours and have trained triage workers who can assess risk and manage emergencies when required. We would always encourage people needing urgent and immediate help to contact Bedfordshire Police. Thank you also for pointing out the typo.
<i>There should be more awareness and signs for anyone going through this for them to get out and get the help and support they need</i>	Thank-you for your comment. Awareness raising is an on ongoing, important area of work for us, which will be incorporated into the action plan that will sit under the strategy.
<i>Immediate needs aren't restricted to situations where children are affected.</i>	Thank you, and yes, we agree. It is important that this strategy consistently refers to children and young people, as they are now recognised as victims in their own right under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. However, we also want to emphasise that anyone experiencing domestic abuse should be able to access the right help.
<i>Just having someone to talk to in the first instance is a lifeline. Also, outside agencies are still not treating victim's correctly.</i>	<p>Thank- you for your comment. We work to promote all helplines, both local and national. You can find information on a wide range of support services by visiting the BDAP website: https://bedsdv.org.uk/</p> <p>Locally, we also deliver training across Bedfordshire that addresses issues such as victim blaming and helps to challenge myths and misunderstandings around domestic abuse.</p>
<i>Providing info, making people aware they can access the Women's Centre, prevent the woman being felt like she is to blame when social services get involved. Often people don't realise they are in a domestic relationship, attending support groups help, feeling validated and realising you're not alone and its abuse.</i>	<p>Thank-you for your comment. Sadly, it is often the case, that a person does not identify themselves as being in an abusive relationship, especially if there is not physical violence.</p> <p>Emotional, psychological abuse and coercive control can be hard to pinpoint and can make a person question their reality. We work as a partnership to raise awareness of all types of domestic abuse and is something we will be prioritising in our strategy.</p>
<i>Utilising community hubs for individual or family or older children check ins as safe spaces. Have community champions who may be able to sign post folks in need to the various support out there.</i>	Thank-you for this comment. Champions networks are something we will be looking to set up in the future.

Comments	Responses
<p><i>Online advice, information, questionnaires on what is happening, safety information, where to go for help... including in first warning signs before things escalate and more verbal/psychological abuse is happening, and education on tactics like gaslighting, breadcrumbing, love bombing. Early advice and support before things escalate. (There are lots of online videos for example on dealing with narcissists, be good to have something from professionals like this.)</i></p>	<p>See previous response relating to awareness raising and training work that we currently do and will be looking to continuously improve going forward.</p>
<p><i>The Police need to do more.</i></p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. We work closely with Bedfordshire Police and are always striving, as a partnership for continuous improvement in the response to domestic abuse. The Police play a vital role in safeguarding and enforcement, and as with everything we recognise that more can always be done. Through partnership working, information sharing, and ongoing training, we aim to strengthen the collective response so that victims and survivors receive timely, effective support from all agencies involved.</p>
<p><i>Again, feel these questions difficult to comment on as “accessing the right help” - will that differ for each person? do people know what they need?</i></p>	<p>We offer a range of services within Bedfordshire which aim to be responsive to individual needs. Service work closely together and will often make referral to other agencies who may be better placed to support an individual’s needs.</p>
<p><i>Must be the Priority 1: The need is now and the service needs to respond quicker, train exciting staff to show more empathy and be clear on timelines to the person reaching out. These timelines must be committed. Categorise abuse so the highest issues need immediate relocation, with a key worker. If you have a triage stage that person who supports must be fully trained on this priority, the services and location of safety.</i></p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. Please see above comment regarding triage and ensuring that emergency crisis situations are dealt with accordingly.</p>

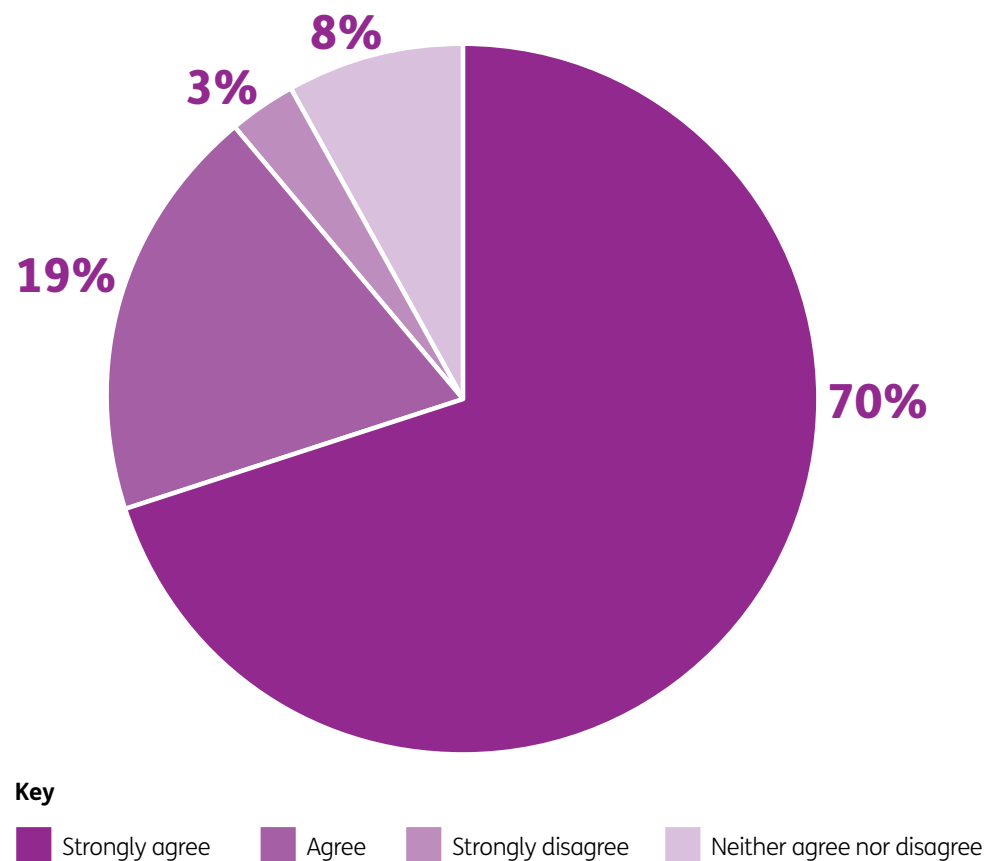
Comments	Responses
<i>But it needs to be holistic and problem solving. You have old school practitioners taking old school approaches. It needs to be a proper form of intervention with partnership agencies coming alongside to work together.</i>	Thank you for your comment. We agree that partnership working is essential, as no single agency or service can address this issue alone. The Bedfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership website provides information on the coordinated support available, and all providers work closely together to ensure a joined up response to domestic abuse.
<i>Only as good if the person wants to take it.</i>	Thank you for your comment. We recognise that we cannot make anyone access support; however, we can continue to raise awareness, offer patience and kindness, and ensure that help is available when individuals feel ready to disclose abuse.
<i>Even just being able to access information or signposting, at the moment of need, would be hugely beneficial. And again, reducing repeat incidences that will require support from local services</i>	Thank-you for your comment. We work to raise awareness of Domestic Abuse and services available. Please see the Bedfordshire domestic Abuse Partnership website for details of support services, both local and national.
<i>Again it depends what these words mean and how much funding you have or will be given. It also depends who you have running these projects and whether they understand the way women are traumatised (in the context of male violence against them) and not subtly blamed i.e. described as “reckless” or “she keeps finding the wrong men”.</i>	<p>Thank you for your comment. It is essential that professionals understand the impact of trauma, particularly in the context of male violence against women, and use language that does not inadvertently blame victim/survivors. Our Commissioning processes are designed to promote best practice, challenge harmful narratives, and ensure that services are delivered in a way that is strengths based, client centred, and trauma informed.</p> <p>We work in partnership to ensure that the services we commission through government funding are delivering to meet the needs of Bedford victim/survivors within the limitations and the constraints of the funding.</p>
<i>Immediate response and then provide relevant support are the key to ensuring the victim gets support to rebuild their lives quickly.</i>	Thank you for your comment. We agree, and this is a key focus of the strategy.

Priority 3 – Disrupt: Intervene with those who Cause Harm and Reduce Re-offending

This priority focuses on holding perpetrators accountable and preventing further abuse.

It underlines the need for effective intervention, information sharing, and coordinated responses to disrupt harmful behaviour and reduce repeat offending.

“ To what extent do you agree or disagree this being a priority in the domestic abuse strategy? ”



Comments	Responses
<i>As stated in Q1, make it mandatory for APs to complete behaviour change courses as soon as they are charged with any type of DA.</i>	Please see response to question Q1.
<i>Yes yes to holding perpetrators accountable. In my own case, it was a ‘his word against yours’ - which I realise can be true, but there are situations where a woman’s word HAS to be taken. But to leave a woman in a dangerous position, especially when the man knows she has reported the abuse, can lead to much worse abuse or even death. (I am using ‘man’ and ‘woman’ here, although I know it can sometimes be the other way round. Not so dangerously, though.) I was one of the lucky ones - I left, taking only my handbag.</i>	<p>Thank you for your comment. We recognise that risk can escalate quickly when abusive behaviour is not addressed. A key part of our approach is to focus on the perpetrator’s harmful behaviour while prioritising the safety and wellbeing of the victim survivor. Accredited perpetrator behaviour change programmes, delivered alongside dedicated support for victim survivors, are an important element of ensuring a safer and more accountable response to domestic abuse.</p> <p>We are truly glad to hear that you were able to leave and that you are now safe. Taking that step can be incredibly difficult, and we know how much strength and courage it must have taken. We hope you have access to the support you need as you rebuild your life at your own pace.</p> <p>Our commissioned services will work with clients to ensure that where leaving is a planned decision, this can be achieved in a way that is as safe as possible. However, we acknowledge that it is not always possible to leave in a planned way and guidance is available when someone leaves under different circumstances. This may include having an emergency bag kept in a place of safety with important documents and other essential items that can be retrieved after leaving.</p> <p>https://junowomensaid.org.uk/what-to-pack-in-an-emergency-bag-if-you-need-to-leave-quickly/</p>
<i>Yes they need action against them so they do not go and do it again take the person away from them or lock the person up put the person somewhere else.</i>	Thank-you, please see comment above about regarding behaviour change programs.
<i>Some perpetrators will never accept they are the problem</i>	Thank you for your comment. We acknowledge that some people may not accept their harmful behaviour, and this can make intervention more challenging. However, it is important that we continue to provide opportunities for individuals to engage in behaviour change, while ensuring that the safety and wellbeing of victim/survivors remain at the centre of all our work. Even when a perpetrator does not accept responsibility, coordinated community responses, risk management, and support for victim/survivors still play a vital role in reducing harm.

Comments	Responses
<p><i>Where there is not enough evidence of abuse for legal action to be taken, how do you hold perpetrators accountable or prevent further abuse</i></p>	<p>Whilst it may not always be possible for legal action to be taken, this does not mean that there isn't any risk associated with the abuse. The focus would therefore be on managing the risks through gathering intelligence and information sharing between professionals. Under the Domestic Abuse Disclosure Scheme (Clare's Law), there is a Right to know, where police are obligated to share information if they believe someone is at risk.</p> <p>We would always advocate that the non-abusive person reports the behaviour to the police on each occasion as it helps to build up a picture of the behaviour and assess the risk. Utilising disruption techniques such as additional home security – window locks, fireproof letter boxes, and cameras. Civil orders – non-molestation orders and occupation orders. Where professionals are involved ensuring that they don't avoid discussing the behaviour that has been used.</p> <p>Safeguarding professionals are in the position of putting in place agreements with the abusive person and outlining consequences where the agreements are not adhered to. Work in partnership with the non-abusive partner to implement safety plans to support keep them safe.</p>
<p><i>I feel abusers are manipulators. Them attending courses like the Freedom programme just makes them learn the terminology which they will use against the victim</i></p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. We understand the concern that some individuals who use abusive behaviour may attempt to manipulate learning or language from programmes rather than genuinely engaging with change.</p> <p>This is why accredited behaviour change programmes are designed with a strong focus on accountability, risk management, and ongoing monitoring. Facilitators are trained to recognise minimisation, denial, and manipulation, and the programmes are built to challenge harmful beliefs and patterns rather than simply provide information.</p> <p>Behaviour change work is delivered alongside dedicated support for victim/survivors to ensure safety is prioritised throughout. While no single intervention works for everyone, evidence based perpetrator programmes remain an important part of reducing harm and preventing repeat offending, especially when delivered safely and as part of a coordinated multi agency response.</p>

Comments	Responses
<p><i>Promoting Clares law. Cross education with healthcare -primary/ A&E/acute care/ policing/ safeguarding and members of community- similar to RESPOND sessions around mental health but focus on DA</i></p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. Promoting Clare’s Law is an important part of increasing awareness and ensuring that people have access to information that may help keep them safe. We agree that cross sector education is vital. Strengthening awareness across healthcare, including primary care, A&E, acute settings, as well as policing, safeguarding teams, and wider community groups helps ensure consistent understanding and timely responses.</p> <p>As part of our partnership approach, we will continue to work with agencies to improve shared training opportunities and ensure that domestic abuse awareness is embedded across all services. This supports earlier identification, better risk assessment, and improved pathways to support.</p>
<p><i>I don’t know if this already exists... having something where people can find out if someone has previously been convicted of domestic abuse offenses. I know they do this for convicted paedophiles, that you can find this out without them knowing.</i></p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. Yes, there is a scheme similar to Sarah’s Law for finding out if someone has previous domestic abuse offences. It is called Clare’s law or the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme and was named after Clare Wood who was murdered by her abusive ex-boyfriend in 2009.</p> <p>There are two parts to this: A Right to Ask - The Right to Ask lets individuals (or friends/family) inquire with police about a partner’s violent past. A Right to Know - Right to Know allows police to proactively disclose such information to protect potential victims, often triggered by third-party reports.</p> <p>This is the link for Bedfordshire Police Clare’s Law: https://www.beds.police.uk/rqo/request/ri/request-information/cl/triage/v2/request-information-under-clares-law/</p>
<p><i>If it's not stopped it just gets worse because the abusers now, they can get away with it.</i></p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. We agree that when abusive behaviour is not addressed the risk can escalate and the harm can become more severe. This is why our strategy places strong emphasis on timely intervention, effective risk management, and coordinated action across services.</p> <p>By focusing on the perpetrator’s behaviour while keeping the safety and wellbeing of the victim survivor at the centre we aim to reduce the likelihood of repeated or escalating abuse. Ensuring that perpetrators are held accountable and offered behaviour change programmes, is key to preventing situations from worsening.</p>

Comments	Responses
<p><i>Some perpetrators will continue their behaviour with multiple partners even with intervention, Unfortunately, it's no different to any other criminal re-offending.</i></p>	<p>Please see above comment.</p>
<p><i>please outline what these are or just straplines</i></p>	<p>Please see previous responses.</p>
<p><i>Categorise abuse - higher physical and abused higher mental health should be immediate through the arrest of the abuser. The higher means held in custody whilst gathering evidence. If in place be judged by magistrates or judges so immediate incarceration takes place. The Police will be responsible for the restraining order if medium. This should not rely on the abuser. The perpetrator has committed a crime and police are witnesses at point of contact. The abused must, no longer, stop this process. New priority 3 - quick wins/medium/ longer term.</i></p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. We understand the concern about ensuring that serious and escalating abuse is responded to promptly and robustly. Decisions around arrest, detention, and the use of protective powers sit with the police and the courts, who must follow national legislation and evidential thresholds. However, we strongly agree that safeguarding action must not rely solely on the victim, and that agencies must act quickly where there is clear risk.</p> <p>Our strategy emphasises partnership working, Support for Early intervention and timely support for victim survivors and consistent risk assessment so that high risk situations are identified early and protective measures such as Clare’s law and Domestic Abuse Protection Orders can be put in place swiftly.</p> <p>We will continue to work with Bedfordshire Police, social care, health and other partners to improve coordinated responses, and develop medium and long term actions within Priority 3 so that perpetrators are held accountable and victims and survivors are protected as early as possible.</p>
<p><i>I've not seen evidence to support this method of working. It could be risky to the victim. You need to share what this could look like and will there be ongoing support for abusers or do you expect to disrupt them and then they change.</i></p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. We recognise that behaviour change work can only be effective when it is delivered safely, with ongoing monitoring, and in partnership with services that prioritise the victim survivor’s wellbeing. Disruption is just one element of methods that can be employed to reduce the risk of further harmful behaviour. The Chrysalis Project works holistically with those who use harmful behaviour to support where there are additional factors present such as drugs, alcohol and mental health issues.</p>
<p><i>Investment into Respect accredited Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programmes. Introduction of a Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Specialist to coordinate local response again only as good if the person says something.</i></p>	<p>In 2025, the Government announced additional £53 million investment into the DRIVE Project of which RESPECT is one of the founding organisations. Funding will be available to all Police & Crime Commissioners across the Country to implement this within their boundary area.</p>

Comments	Responses
<p><i>I think the whole cycle needs addressing in order to prevent it from becoming a continuous cycle. If there is no accountability, it will happen over and over, to a string of different people. So much more widespread at that point. And still more services required. Shutting it down as early as possible will always be the best approach in my view.</i></p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. We agree that addressing the full cycle of abuse is essential if we are to prevent harm from repeating and affecting multiple individuals. Accountability is a key part of this. Without it, abusive behaviour can continue unchecked, leading to further victimisation and increased demand on services.</p> <p>Our strategy places a strong emphasis on early intervention, which includes education for children and young people, as a key preventative measure. We ensure consistent risk management, and coordinated action across agencies so that harmful behaviour is identified and addressed as quickly as possible.</p> <p>By focusing on both prevention and accountability, and by ensuring that perpetrators are challenged and supported to change, we aim to break the cycle rather than simply respond to its impacts. Early, robust action is one of the most effective ways to reduce repeat harm, protect victims and survivors, and prevent abuse.</p>
<p><i>But behaviour change programmes need to understand the BELIEFS AND ENTITLEMENT of these men. Not “he had a hard life” so let’s make excuses for him. Lots of people (some think up to 98% of us) have experienced at least one traumatic event. We don’t all go around raping and harming women in other ways.</i></p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. We agree that effective behaviour change work must go beyond acknowledging someone’s history and instead focus on addressing the beliefs, attitudes, and sense of entitlement that underpin abusive behaviour. Trauma or difficult life experiences can never be used as an excuse for harming others, and we recognise that many people experience adversity without going on to abuse.</p> <p>Our commissioned programmes are designed to challenge harmful belief systems, promote accountability, and support individuals to understand the impact of their actions.</p> <p>We are committed to ensuring that perpetrator interventions are rooted in evidence based practice and remain focused on safety, accountability, and meaningful long term behaviour change, rather than justification or minimisation of abuse.</p>

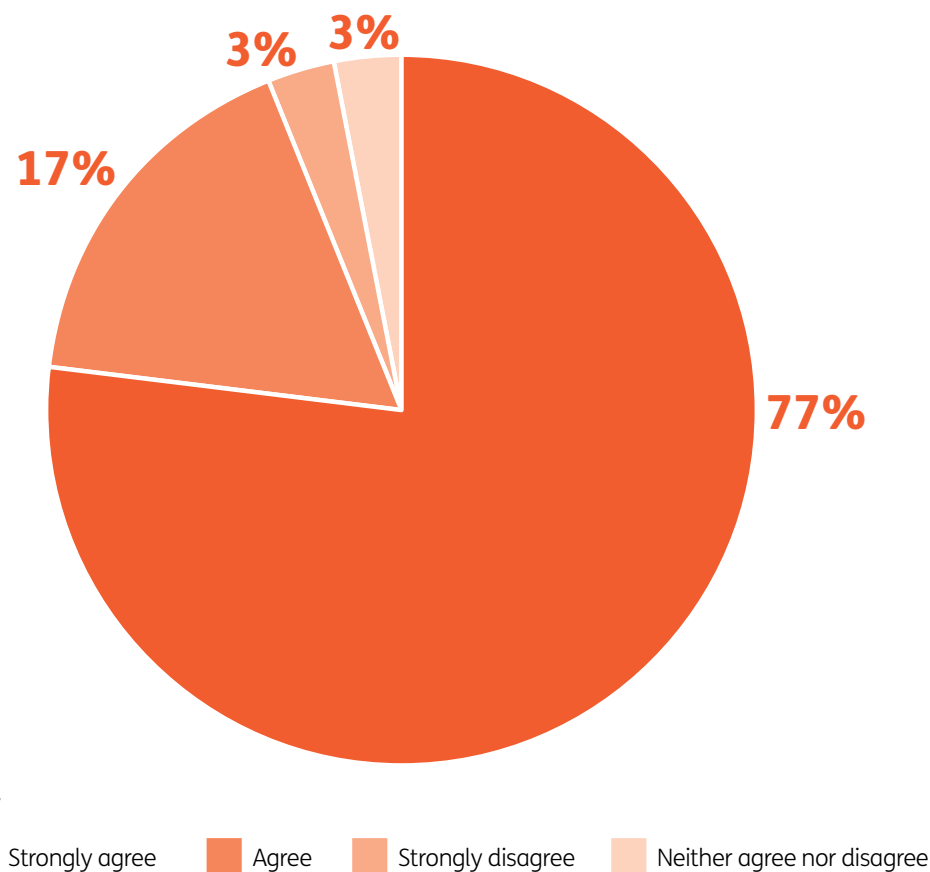
Comments	Responses
<p><i>Local charities working on abuse already know that reaching out earlier to disrupt or intervene to disrupt aggressive or violence reaction behaviour is key to ending violence as the abuse gets to learn how to communicate or direct his anger elsewhere without harming someone or themselves</i></p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. We agree that early intervention is an essential part of disrupting harmful behaviour before it escalates. Local charities and specialist services play a key role in identifying concerns at an early stage and supporting individuals to develop safer ways of managing their behaviour.</p> <p>Within Priority 3, our focus is on holding those who cause harm accountable, reducing opportunities for repeat offending, and ensuring that behaviour change work addresses the underlying attitudes and patterns that drive abuse. Supporting individuals to develop healthier communication and emotional regulation can be effective when delivered safely and in parallel with dedicated support for victim/survivors.</p> <p>Our strategy emphasises coordinated multi agency response so that early warning signs are not missed, risk can be managed proactively, and harmful behaviour is challenged at the earliest possible opportunity. By intervening sooner, we aim to reduce the likelihood of further harm and help prevent the cycle of abuse from continuing.</p>

Priority 4 – Partnership: Work with Partners to Deliver a Skilled Trauma-informed Workforce and Survivor-centred Culture

This priority aims to build a consistent, compassionate, and coordinated response across all services.

It promotes a trauma-informed approach, ensuring professionals are equipped to respond effectively and that survivors' voices shape how services are designed and delivered.

“ To what extent do you agree or disagree this being a priority in the domestic abuse strategy? ”



Comments	Responses
<p><i>Working with partners is so important. The TV's 'Three Girls' emphasises this, when the sexual health staff reported child abuse again and again and again, but were not listened to, and in fact sidelined. This situation would be the same in all sorts of abuse, not just the organised gang child abuse of Rochdale.</i></p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. We completely agree that strong partnership working is vital to ensuring concerns are acted upon and that safeguarding responses are effective. The example you've highlighted from Three Girls reflects how devastating the consequences can be when professionals are not listened to or when information is not properly shared. Sadly, this risk exists across all forms of abuse, not only in high profile cases.</p> <p>Our strategy is committed to strengthening multi agency working so that every organisation involved in supporting children, adults, and families is equipped to recognise abuse, escalate concerns, and work collaboratively to ensure that no voice is sidelined. We aim to build a culture where professionals are confident, connected, and consistently supported to act, so that situations like the one you describe are not repeated.</p>
<p><i>It's vital that this recognises that 1) sometimes the perpetrators are women or femme presenting and sometimes the victims are men or masc presenting and 2) that abuse does take place in gay relationships as well as straight ones.</i></p>	<p>This strategy is aimed at all residents of Bedford regardless of sex, gender identity, race culture age. We know that both men and women are affected by Domestic abuse. We acknowledge that the most recent Uk data shows that around 11% of LGBTQ+ people experience domestic abuse each year, with higher rates (around 17%) among LGBTQ+ people of Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds. Prevalence is likely under reported due to barriers specific to LGBTQ+ communities such a fear of being outed.</p>
<p><i>Partnerships need to make sure they carry out the skills they have learnt.</i></p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. We agree that consistent, high quality training and clear, regular messaging are essential to embedding learning across the partnership. This helps ensure that professionals are equipped with the knowledge, confidence, and skills they need to provide effective, trauma informed support and to respond appropriately to those affected by domestic abuse.</p>
<p><i>I am aware of a recent experience from Bedford borough of a survivor having their language of naming their abuser challenged and being told what to do. Mirroring the silencing and control that happens in abusive situations.</i></p>	<p>Thank you for sharing this. We are sorry to hear about this experience, and we recognise how harmful it can be when a survivor feels that their language is challenged or that they are being told what to do. This can echo the silencing and control experienced within abusive relationships and can make it even harder for individuals to engage with support.</p> <p>Your comment highlights the importance of all services working in a trauma informed, person centred way that respects survivors' voices, autonomy, and choices. As part of our ongoing commissioning and partnership work, we will continue to emphasise the need for staff training, reflective practice and approaches that avoid replicating dynamics of control. Feedback like this is essential in helping us ensure that support services respond in a safe, validating, and empowering manner.</p>

Comments	Responses
<p><i>Experience means someone understands, sadly sometimes professionals don't.</i></p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. We recognise how important lived experience is in truly understanding the impact and complexity of abuse. While professionals work hard to support individuals, we acknowledge that not all may fully grasp the depth of what survivors have been through. This is why ongoing training, reflective practice, and survivor led approaches are central to our strategy.</p> <p>We have a survivor voice group to help and ensure that the voices of lived experience are feeding into our decision-making processes and our strategic planning.</p> <p>We are committed to ensuring that professionals not only have the right knowledge and skills, but also listen carefully, respond with empathy, and value the voices and experiences of those they support.</p>
<p><i>Same as previous answer. Engaging with employers/ businesses as they could share and promote in their workforce.</i></p>	<p>Thank-you and yes engagement and awareness raising are key focus for this strategy.</p>
<p><i>Nobody really cares.</i></p>	<p>We are really sorry that you feel this way. We recognise that when people have experienced harm or have not received the support they needed, it can understandably lead to feeling unheard or uncared for. We would like to reassure you that we, along with many dedicated professionals across the partnership, genuinely do care and are committed to supporting individuals at every stage of their journey.</p> <p>We are also working hard to challenge the system, acknowledge where there are gaps or failings, and make meaningful improvements. Your feedback is an important part of helping us do that, and we appreciate you taking the time to share it.</p>
<p><i>I don't think this is innovative or new. The problem is making it work.</i></p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. We agree that this approach may not be entirely new, and nor is the challenge of domestic abuse itself. The key issue, as you highlight, is ensuring that the strategy translates into meaningful action.</p> <p>Our aim is for this strategy to bring greater clarity, consistency, and coordination across services so that support is holistic, effective, and able to meet the needs of Bedford residents. By strengthening partnership working, focusing on evidence based practice, and improving accountability, we are committed to making this strategy workable in practice, not just in theory.</p>

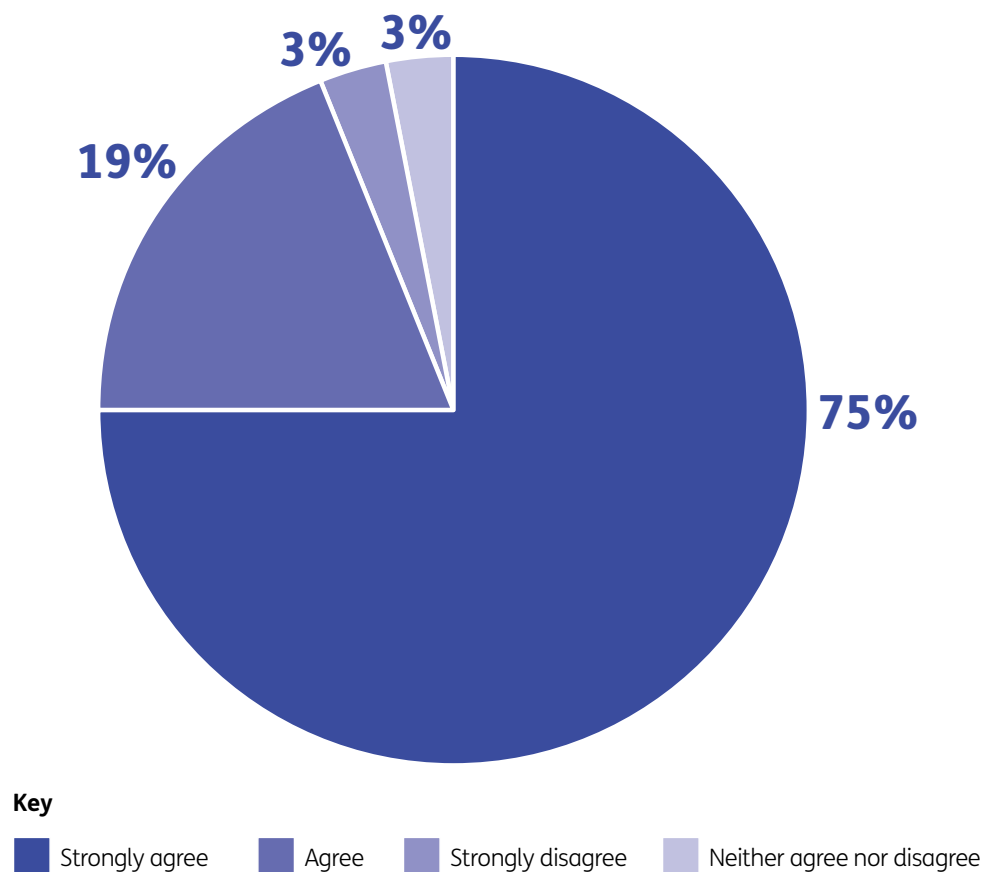
Comments	Responses
<p>Currently remain as Priority 4</p> <p><i>There needs to be a base line of expectation and partners working with victims should be fully vetted. BBC and the OPCC commission services which have abusers working for them. It needs to be a pan Beds approach with a base line of expectations from practitioners and team leaders.</i></p>	<p>Thank-you</p> <p>Thank you for raising this important concern. We agree that there must be a clear baseline of expectations for all practitioners and organisations working with victim survivors, and that safeguarding, vetting, and accountability are essential. As commissioners, we are committed to ensuring that all services we fund meet robust standards around recruitment, training, and professional conduct.</p> <p>We are unable to comment on allegations that are made within a consultation response. However, if you have a concern that you would like to raise, with either Bedford Borough Council or the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, please do so through the links below:</p> <p>https://www.bedford.gov.uk/your-council/have-your-say/complaints-and-feedback/give-feedback-or-make-complaint-online</p> <p>https://www.bedfordshire.pcc.police.uk/contact-us/</p>
<p><i>I think further training for professionals is still required to understand the complexities of abuse that is not physical.</i></p>	<p>Thank-you for your comment. Please see previous responses relating to training and awareness raising work.</p>
<p><i>See earlier response. I'm not convinced a lot of professionals actually understand what trauma informed mean and just use it as another way to excuse violent men.</i></p>	<p>Please see previous responses in relation to this.</p>
<p><i>Great co-ordinated referral system or partnerships such that established by BDAP are the best way as we know who we can refer cases to or secure emergency accommodation etc.</i></p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. We agree that a coordinated community response is essential, and we recognise the value of the BDAP partnership and the website in providing clear referral pathways and joined up support. Working closely with partners helps ensure that individuals can access the right services quickly, whether that is advocacy, specialist support, or emergency accommodation. We will continue to build on this approach to strengthen consistency, improve access, and ensure that support remains safe, effective, and well connected across Bedfordshire.</p>

Priority 5 – Recovery: Embedding Long-term Recovery Pathways

This priority recognises that recovery from trauma and abuse is a non-linear long-term process.

It focuses on supporting survivors to rebuild their lives, achieve independence, and access ongoing help with housing, health, and wellbeing in a sustainable and empowering way.

“ To what extent do you agree or disagree this being a priority in the domestic abuse strategy? ”



Comments	Responses
<p><i>More funding is needed and for longer periods to allow survivors to heal and hopefully recover. Holistic approach for whole family.</i></p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. We agree on the importance of longer term funding. The Government has also recognised this, and we are pleased to confirm that the funding allocated for the provision of support in safe accommodation has now been set for a three year period. This will enable us to commission services over a longer term than we have previously been able to do.</p>
<p><i>Ensure any support offered is available in the evening too, like the Freedom Project it was available during the day and I was working.</i></p>	<p>Thank you for sharing this valuable feedback. We recognise how important it is that support is accessible outside of standard working hours, particularly for those in employment or with daytime caring responsibilities. This will be taken into account as part of our future commissioning, where we will explore options for evening or more flexible delivery to ensure services are as inclusive and accessible as possible. Your experience highlights a real need, and we appreciate you taking the time to raise it.</p>
<p><i>I have put 'agree' rather than 'strongly agree', because I think this is highly important, but not as important as getting the women out of there in the first place. That is where the immediate danger is. And the rebuilding can be done afterwards, once they're safe. I am in two minds about giving it the 'strongly agree' tick, but I feel the first questions are of more importance, although of course this one is important too.</i></p>	<p>Thank you for your thoughtful comment. We completely understand your reasoning and agree that ensuring a woman's immediate safety is always the absolute priority. The longer term recovery and rebuilding of lives can only begin once someone is safely out of harm's way.</p> <p>Your feedback highlights the importance of recognising both elements of support, while also acknowledging that some interventions must come first in moments of crisis. We appreciate you taking the time to explain your perspective.</p>
<p><i>Have someone to help and support the person as long as they need.</i></p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. We recognise how important it is for survivors to have someone who can support them for as long as they need, rather than for a fixed or limited period. Recovery is different for everyone, and having consistent, reliable support can make a significant difference to safety, wellbeing and long term stability.</p> <p>Your feedback highlights the importance of commissioning services that are flexible, person centred and able to offer ongoing support where needed. This will continue to be considered as part of our future commissioning and partnership work to ensure survivors are not left without help at critical points in their recovery.</p>

Comments	Responses
<p><i>The problem I have with this, is that it may not extend to survivors who cannot prove the abuse against them (e.g. insufficient evidence). Such survivors also need to recover.</i></p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. Support services that work with survivors generally do not require proof of abuse; they operate from a believing stance and recognise that not everyone is able to provide evidence. We understand that the traumatic long-lasting impact of abuse, regardless of whether it can be formally evidenced, and recovery support must be accessible to all who need it.</p> <p>Your point highlights the importance of ensuring that pathways into support are flexible, trauma informed and do not create additional barriers for those who may already feel unheard or unsupported. This will continue to be reflected in our future commissioning so that services remain inclusive and responsive to the needs of all survivors.</p>
<p><i>It would be great to see services that survivors can access at anytime, longer term. Often services are for a specific time frame (short-medium term) as a result of how funding is managed</i></p>	<p>Thank you for raising this point. We recognise how valuable it is for survivors to have access to support that is flexible and available for as long as they need it, rather than being limited to short or medium term interventions. You are absolutely right that current funding structures often create these time bound models. As part of our future commissioning, we will continue to explore ways to build in longer term and more accessible support options, so that services can respond to individual needs rather than funding constraints. Your feedback is really helpful in highlighting the importance of this.</p>
<p><i>The option of being housed in a different area is important. Although it means the victim leaving their familiar surroundings, it gives them a fresh start. Communication and ongoing support as it can be a very lonely process</i></p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. We recognise that having the option to be housed in a different area can be an important part of ensuring safety and offering a genuine fresh start. While moving away from familiar surroundings can be challenging, appropriate communication and ongoing support are essential to reduce isolation and help survivors settle into their new environment.</p> <p>Your feedback highlights the importance of ensuring that relocation is accompanied by consistent, well coordinated support so that people are not left feeling alone during what can be a difficult transition.</p>
<p><i>Great priority but how will you effectively do this?</i></p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. We recognise that identifying a priority is only the first step, and the real challenge is delivering it effectively. Through our future commissioning and partnership work, we will aim to develop a coordinated approach that provides long term support for survivors and clear, effective pathways to access this support, ensuring it translates into meaningful and consistent help in practice.</p>

Comments	Responses
<p><i>Life coaching opportunity alongside trauma counselling, considering psychosocial needs of the individual and potentially their children. Appropriate sharing of information between police/ health and education remains poor, sharing can help provide joined up support for long term recovery.</i></p>	<p>Thank you for this thoughtful suggestion. We recognise the value of offering more holistic support, including opportunities such as life coaching alongside trauma focused counselling, to meet the broader psychosocial needs of survivors and their children. A more rounded approach can make a significant difference to long term recovery and independence.</p> <p>We also acknowledge the ongoing challenges around appropriate information sharing between the police, health, education and other agencies. When this does not work well, it can create barriers to providing joined up, consistent support. As part of our future commissioning and partnership work, we will continue to emphasise the importance of effective, lawful information sharing so that services can better coordinate and respond to everyone’s needs. Your feedback is extremely helpful in highlighting these priorities.</p>
<p><i>I just try and cope.</i></p>	<p>Thank you for sharing this. Your comment highlights the importance of ensuring that services are responsive, accessible, and designed in a way that offers meaningful, ongoing support. We acknowledge some people are left trying to cope on their own when specialist support may not always be available. Bedford has a range of support services that may be able to assist you. Please access the BDAP website: Home Bedfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership to find out about the services available to support you.</p> <p>This feedback will help inform our future commissioning as we aim to ensure that no-one feels they have to manage by themselves.</p>
<p><i>So reliant on access to other services i.e. housing.</i></p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. We recognise that access to wider services, particularly housing, can have a significant impact on how effective support can be. Domestic abuse services do not operate in isolation, and when other systems are stretched or difficult to access, it can create additional barriers for survivors. Through our future commissioning and partnership work, we will continue to emphasise the importance of strong links with housing and other key services so that support can be joined up and responsive to people’s needs.</p>
<p><i>Move to Priority 2. Based on actions from the new Priority 1; supporting survivors will be an immediate need especially helping with housing, finances, health and wellbeing</i></p>	<p>Thank you for raising this point. We have reviewed the responses, and the majority were in favour of keeping the priorities in their current order. However, we do understand the perspective you’ve shared, and your feedback will be considered as we continue to reflect on the final version of the strategy.</p>

Comments	Responses
<p><i>Investment into wellbeing and recovery programs.</i></p>	<p>Thank you for highlighting the importance of investment in wellbeing and recovery programmes. We recognise that long term healing requires more than immediate crisis support, and that holistic wellbeing interventions can play a crucial role in helping survivors rebuild their confidence, stability and independence. As part of our future commissioning, we will continue to explore opportunities to strengthen and expand these types of programmes so that support is not only available at the point of crisis but also throughout the longer term recovery journey.</p>
<p><i>It is nonlinear, and long term, but I also feel it can be reduced if there is access to support early on. Understanding, and reshaping, shaping what behaviours are could be a shorter process if there were support to understand what is acceptable/what isn't as early as possible. It could prevent people from falling into another harmful relationship which would only confirm what the first relationship was saying all along, making it harder to unlearn and recover from</i></p>	<p>Thank you for sharing this thoughtful reflection. We agree that recovery is often non linear and can take time, but timely access to the right support can make a significant difference. Helping people to understand healthy and unhealthy behaviours at an early stage can support confidence, reduce the length of the recovery journey, and help prevent further harmful relationships.</p> <p>Your comment highlights the importance of early intervention, clear information, and ongoing support that helps survivors rebuild their sense of self and recognise what safe, respectful relationships look like. This will continue to be considered as part of our future commissioning and partnership work so that support is available at the earliest possible opportunity and can contribute to long term recovery.</p>
<p><i>See earlier replies re funding and knowledge</i></p>	<p>Thank-you we will consider your earlier responses.</p>
<p><i>Council must provide funding for this to work and not mere words or promises</i></p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. We recognise the importance of ensuring that these priorities are supported by appropriate and sustainable funding. Effective services cannot be delivered through commitments alone, and your feedback highlights the need for resources to match the level of ambition set out in the strategy. As we move forward with the strategy, we will continue to align our plans with the funding available to ensure that support for survivors is reliable, consistent and able to meet local needs.</p>

Summary of Key Themes from Consultation Responses

Priority One

Feedback from the consultation shows strong support for making prevention a central priority in Bedford Borough's Domestic Abuse Strategy. A recurring theme emphasised the need for better education and awareness across all communities, earlier identification of risk, and timely access to support.

They highlighted the importance of agencies working closely together, ensuring that victims and survivors feel heard and can access trauma informed, strengths based services. Alongside this, several respondents raised concerns around inconsistent responses from key agencies such as the police, lack of clarity around how prevention work will be delivered, and gaps in current service provision, including limited therapeutic options for people who cause harm and insufficient support for carers under stress.

Some respondents expressed frustration that domestic abuse is still minimised within certain communities, while others felt prevention work will require far greater resourcing and long term commitment than is currently available. Respondents also stressed the role of perpetrator accountability and meaningful behaviour change programmes, alongside the need for culturally sensitive approaches that reach all communities.

It was also noted that sustainable funding and long term commitment are essential to delivering effective prevention and achieving lasting change.

Priority Two

Feedback highlights the importance of ensuring that anyone experiencing domestic abuse can access quick, safe and effective help when they need it. Respondents stressed the need for rapid responses, clear pathways into support, and simple, accessible routes such as someone to speak to at first contact and reliable signposting.

People also called for greater awareness of non physical forms of abuse, noting that many do not recognise coercive or psychological behaviours without clear information and validation. The importance of trauma informed, empathetic practice across all agencies was strongly emphasised, along with the need for modern, coordinated multi agency working.

Respondents valued community based safe spaces, local champions and accessible online information, while some raised concerns about the consistency of police responses and clarity around what "the right help" means in practice.

They also stressed that immediate support should be available to all victim survivors, not only those with children, and that services must.

Priority Three

The comments strongly emphasise the need for greater perpetrator accountability, with many respondents calling for timely and decisive action that does not rely on victims to drive the process.

There is a clear push for earlier and potentially mandatory behaviour change interventions, alongside concern that some individuals may manipulate programme content, highlighting the importance of robust, well monitored approaches.

People express significant anxiety about risk escalating after reporting, especially when systems respond slowly or when legal thresholds are not met, leading to calls for stronger use of non criminal justice measures and protective tools.

Respondents also highlight the importance of Clare's Law awareness, improved multi agency coordination and training, and recognition of serial or repeat offending patterns.

Overall, the feedback points to a desire for a proactive, joined up system focused on early intervention, challenging harmful beliefs and entitlement, and ensuring victims are protected while perpetrators are held to account.

Priority Four

People told us that strong partnership working remains essential, but it must be consistent, effective, and truly make a difference in practice.

Many highlighted positive support for improving multi agency working, information sharing, and clear referral routes, while also emphasising the need for professionals to apply their training and maintain a genuinely trauma informed and survivor centred approach.

Respondents also called for improved understanding of non physical forms of abuse and greater inclusivity, noting that domestic abuse affects people of all genders and occurs in LGBTQ+ relationships.

Some raised concerns about experiences where survivors felt unheard or dismissed, and stressed the importance of respectful language, valuing lived experience, and ensuring professionals do not replicate patterns of control. Others expressed frustration about a lack of visible progress, or low confidence that systems will change.

We recognise these concerns. As a partnership, we are committed to strengthening accountability, improving workforce training, ensuring equity and inclusion for all communities, and delivering a consistent, compassionate response across all services. We will continue to ensure that survivors' voices shape our work, that expectations for partners are clear, and that support is safe, joined up and effective in practice, not just in principle.

Priority Five

People told us that long term, flexible support is essential for recovery from domestic abuse. Survivors highlighted that healing is a non linear process and often extends beyond the short term services currently available.

Many emphasised the importance of a holistic approach that looks not only at immediate safety but also at wider needs such as housing, finances, health, wellbeing and opportunities like life coaching or counselling. Respondents also stressed the need for support to be accessible at different times of day, particularly for those who work or have caring responsibilities, and for services to be available regardless of whether someone can provide formal evidence of abuse.

The option to move to a different area for safety, with effective communication and ongoing support during that transition, was also valued. Another key theme was the importance of joined up working between agencies, including housing, police, health and education, to ensure survivors receive consistent and coordinated support.

Finally, many people noted that these ambitions can, be achieved with sustainable, reliable funding so that services are able to meet the needs of survivors both now and in the long term.

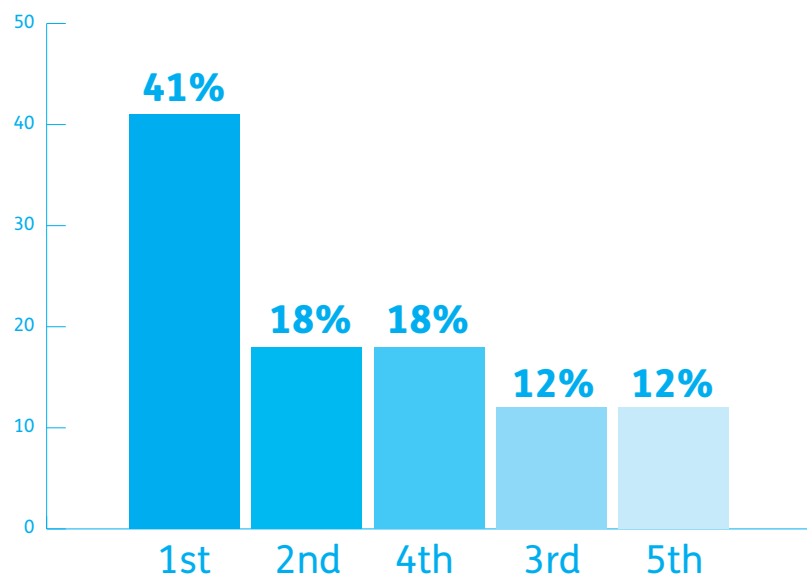
The Strategic Priority Placement

The second part of the consultation asked participants whether they agreed with the order of the priorities set out in the Strategic Priorities document.

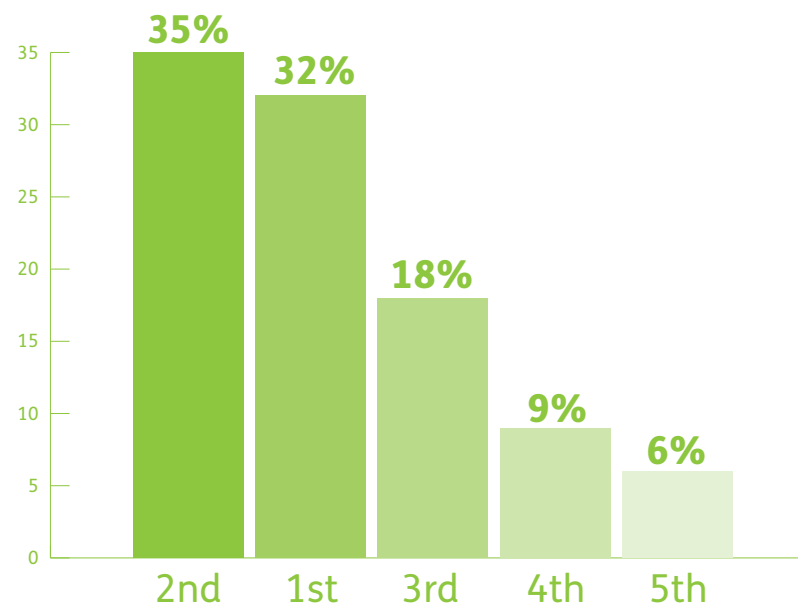
Across all five priorities, the majority of respondents confirmed they were satisfied with their placement. As a result, the priorities will remain in the same order within the final strategy. An accompanying action plan will be developed to ensure that the strategic aims within each priority are delivered effectively.

The below tables show the results of the voting on which order each priority should be listed.

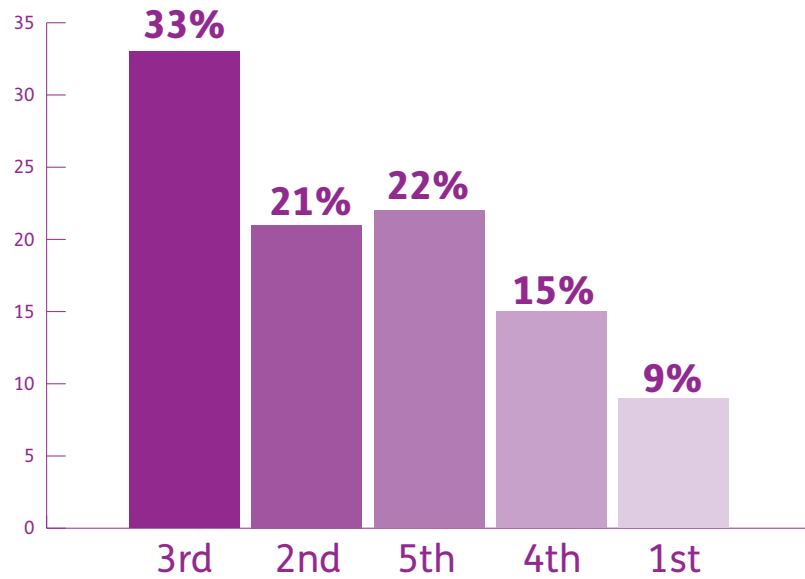
Votes for placement of Priority One



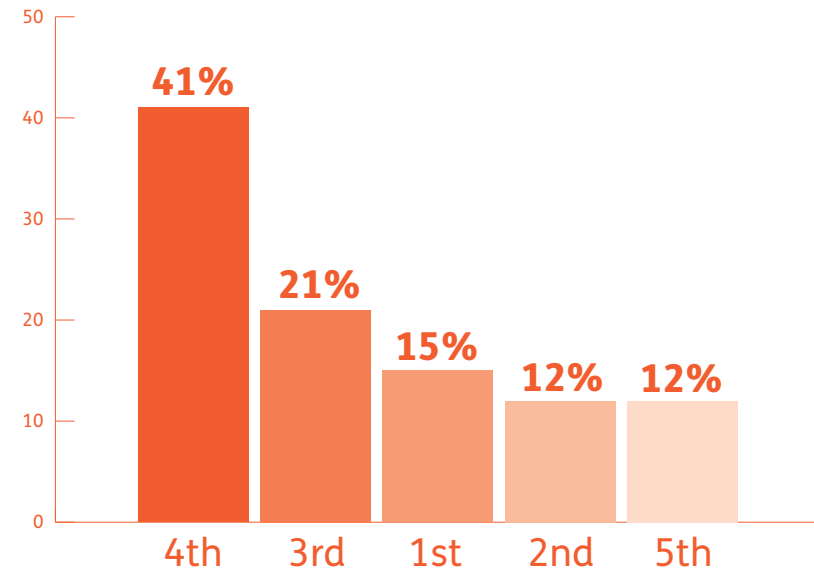
Votes for placement of Priority Two



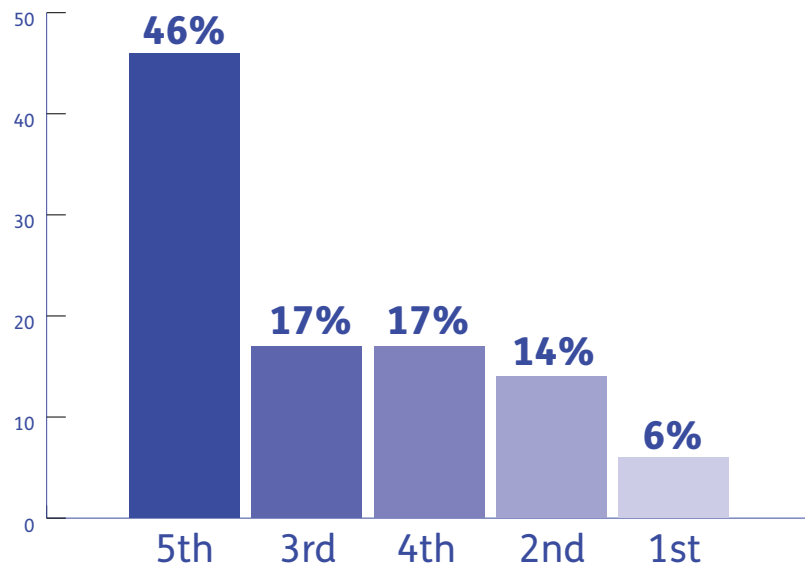
Votes for placement of Priority Three



Votes for placement of Priority Four



Votes for placement of Priority Five



Notes

Finding out more

If you would like further copies, a large-print copy or information about us, please write to via the email address below

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