Torbay's Community Response Strategy:

A Collaborative Plan to Tackle Sexual Violence and Domestic Abuse

2025 - 2030



About the strategy

This strategy aims to address sexual violence and domestic abuse through a coordinated and comprehensive approach for all organisations operating across our local community. The strategy is led by our vibrant and committed Community and Voluntary Sector (CVS) organisations in Torbay that have chosen to sign up to it. However, any organisation that forms part of our local community can sign up to it, including organisations such as schools, GP practices and local businesses. Through the strategy we actively encourage local businesses and corporate organisations to become involved.

Who is involved?

The role of the Torbay Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Community Forum:
The strategy will be owned by the community forum, where all signatories are invited to attend and contribute. The forum will act as a hub for collaboration and collective action, ensuring that our approach is dynamic and responsive to the needs of the community.

The role of the Standing Tall partnership:
The Standing Tall partnership, composed of sexual violence and domestic abuse support services, will provide expert guidance to the forum, ensuring that all efforts are informed by best practice and the lived experiences of those impacted by abuse. This partnership will help ensure the strategy is effectively implemented and continually refined.

The signatories:
The organisations across the community that sign up to the strategy, commit to delivering its ambitions and working with the Torbay Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Community Forum.

The outcomes the strategy will achieve:

- **Increased safety:** People in Torbay will experience a safer environment as the strategy focuses on prevention, early intervention, and support for people experiencing abuse, including support for the whole family.
- **Improved support services:** People affected by domestic abuse and/or sexual violence will benefit from more accessible and comprehensive support services that address their specific needs, fostering their physical and emotional well-being.
- **Community empowerment:** This strategy aims to empower the community by promoting awareness, education, and active participation in preventing sexual violence and domestic abuse, creating a collective effort to address this societal issue.
- **Reduced recurrence:** By addressing the root causes and holding those that use harmful abusive behaviour accountable, the strategy aims to contribute to a reduction in the recurrence of sexual violence and domestic abuse incidents, promoting a healthier community overall.

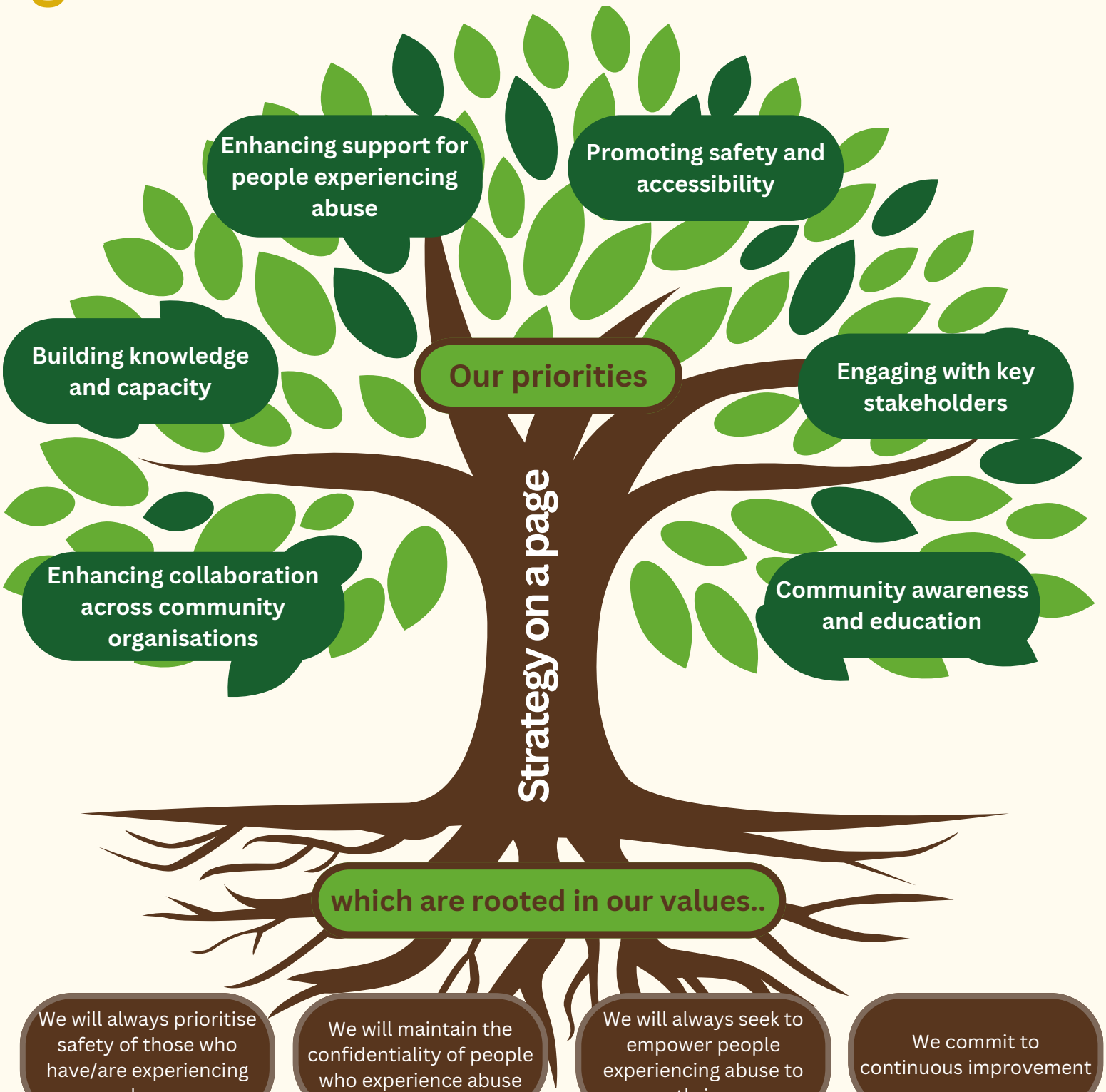
For our full 38 page strategy, please email:
angie@whatsyourproblem.org.uk

Our aims

A unified response to sexual violence and domestic abuse .

Proactive measures to educate and prevent abuse from occurring in the first place.

Enhance the quality and accessibility of support services to provide a holistic approach.



We will always prioritise safety of those who have/are experiencing abuse

We will maintain the confidentiality of people who experience abuse

We will always seek to empower people experiencing abuse to thrive

We commit to continuous improvement

We commit to always working to promote respect and dignity when responding to individuals and families experiencing abuse

We commit to working holistically, seeing people experiencing abuse as whole people

We will work collaboratively together

We commit to ensuring our own organisations are educated and informed about domestic abuse and sexual violence

What is the expectation of signatories?

As a signatory of Torbay's Community Response Strategy: Tackling Sexual Violence and Domestic Abuse, your organisation plays an essential role in creating a safer, more supportive environment for those affected by abuse in our community. Here's what being a signatory involves and the positive impact it can have.

Prioritise Safety and Well-being

Ensure your policies, procedures, and workplace practices prioritise the safety of anyone affected by abuse. For instance, develop straightforward safety protocols and promote a trauma-informed approach across all interactions. We can also help you to make your office a 'safe space'

Treat People with Dignity and Respect

Provide respectful, non-judgmental interactions and services. This might include training staff on cultural sensitivity, neuro-inclusive approaches, and anti-oppressive practices to ensure everyone feels valued and understood.

Maintain Confidentiality

Uphold a commitment to confidentiality with clear policies and training. For example, have data protection guidelines and confidentiality agreements that ensure people can trust your organisation with sensitive information.

Work Holistically with Those Affected

Connect those impacted by abuse to comprehensive support, whether through direct services or referral pathways. You might create partnerships with local health, housing, and social support services to address needs beyond immediate safety.

Empower People to Thrive

Support those affected in regaining control and confidence, offering resources or referrals for education, employment, and life skills development. This could mean offering workshops on financial literacy or partnering with job services to help rebuild lives.

Collaborate Actively

Engage in regular inter-agency meetings and share insights, resources, and referrals with other organisations to strengthen our community's collective response to abuse. Participation in the Torbay Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Community Forum is encouraged.

Commit to Continuous Improvement

Embrace a culture of learning by reviewing and updating your practices based on feedback, new insights, and changes in the field. Include voices with lived experience to ensure your approach is always relevant and effective.

Ensure Your Organisation is Educated and Prepared

Provide people within your organisation with ongoing training on domestic abuse and sexual violence awareness. Annual refreshers, workshops, or e-learning modules can keep everyone equipped with the latest knowledge.

Who are our signatories?

If your organisation would like to join our mission, sign up to be a signatory here: