

STANDING TOGETHER

against domestic abuse

Strategic Plan **2025-2030**



Introduction from our Chair Tabitha Morton

Standing Together was founded by women who were passionate about bringing domestic abuse into public recognition so that women experiencing violence and abuse in their own homes could live fear-free lives.

The work of the founders of Standing Together and the sister organisation they founded for service provision, Advance, drove some of the most significant policy and practice changes the UK, and we pioneered the coordinated community response (CCR). The CCR ensures that agencies and communities collaborate and work together to prevent domestic abuse, and when it occurs, to improve safety for victims and survivors, ensuring abusers are held accountable for the harm they cause and that there are consistent and effective responses.

Standing Together will always acknowledge the women who came before us, enabling us to continue the work we do today. In this new strategy, we continue to tackle the disproportionate impact that this insidious issue has on women, striving to be sure that all children are kept safe from harm, and being clear that that men can experience this too. We also meaningfully thank the survivors who have helped us shape this strategy and continue to tell what makes the difference for them so that we can reflect their voices in all that we do.

This strategy builds on our legacy, and honours it. But it also marks our commitment to maintain the continued value and importance of our feminist approach having an intersectional lens in order to achieve the greatest impact through the CCR.

In this way we will not only deliver results, we will also be clear that:

We Stand Together with survivors. We Stand Together for Justice. We Stand Together for change.

As part of this strategic review, one of our founders, Beryl Foster, spoke to the value and importance of engaging key change-makers to build an institutional culture that looks outwards for opportunities to learn and influence the system. She reminded us that the work was most valuable within the context of relationships, between women themselves and the professionals they sought to engage in the mission, and how system analysis and development was key to the development of a completely different practice landscape today.

We were also reminded of subtle practice differences that can have big effects. The work of the founders of Standing Together and the sister organisation they founded for service provision, Advance, drove some of the most significant policy and practice changes the UK has seen in its coordinated community response.

Drawing on the work of Duluth and Ellen Pence, activities that we take for granted today, like Marac (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) and IDVA (independent Domestic Violence Advocates) services, were brought to the landscape because of our founders.

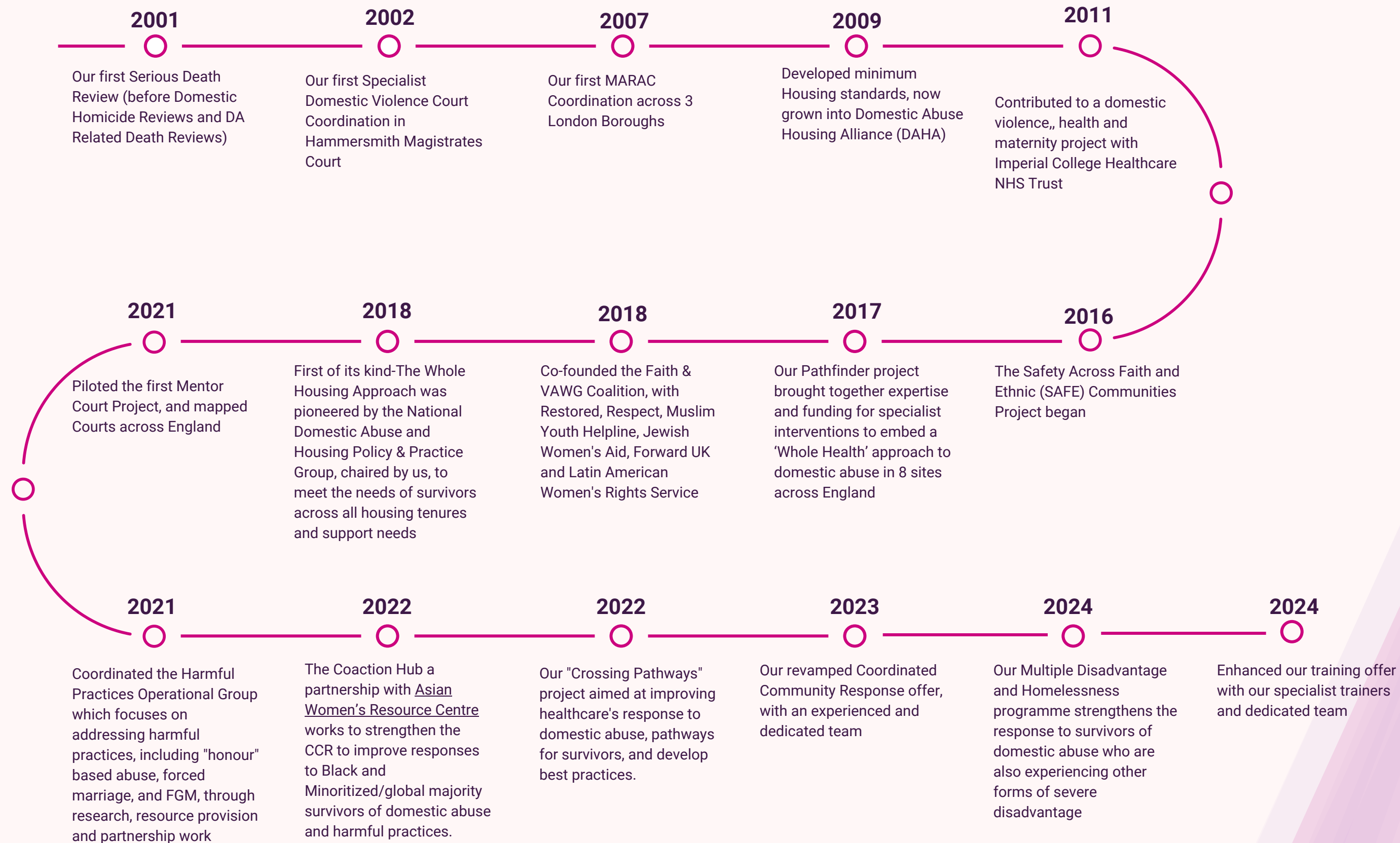


The deepening epidemic of Men's Violence Against Women and Girls (MVAWG) saw a call to action from the National Police Chiefs Council in July 2024 as its data identified that 20% of all recorded crimes are of this nature with a 37% increase in MVAWG in the last five years.

Domestic Abuse (DA) is a significant element of this, an issue that disproportionately affects women as victim-survivors. DA is not just physical and sexual violence. Many victim-survivors will experience non-physical forms. The abuse often comprises many tactics, including economic, psychological, and verbal abuse and is enacted through threats, intimidation, manipulation, humiliation, harassment, and stalking. An abuser intends to create a state of coercive control, suppressing a victim-survivor's autonomy, liberty, personhood, and dignity, keeping them in a state of fear.

Our Story So Far...

It all began in **1998** when Standing Together was formed as a pilot project, adopting the principles of the CCR approach from Duluth, USA Since then we have done so much including:



We commit to... Intersectional Feminism

OUR PRINCIPLES: ·

- WE WILL CHALLENGE INEQUITY COURAGEOUSLY IN ORDER TO MOVE TOWARDS EQUALITY.
- WE WILL INCLUDE A DIVERSE RANGE OF SURVIVOR VOICES IN OUR WORK.
- WE WILL USE OUR STRATEGIC POSITION TO ADVOCATE FOR WOMEN SUBJECTED TO GENDER-BASED DOMESTIC ABUSE.
- WE WILL ADVOCATE FOR MEN SUBJECTED TO DOMESTIC ABUSE.
- WE WILL ADVOCATE FOR ALL PEOPLE SUBJECT TO DOMESTIC ABUSE INTERSECTIONALLY, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR IDENTITY.
- WE WILL CALL EVERYONE, ESPECIALLY MEN AND BOYS, TO ACTION RELATING TO MEN'S VAWG.
- WE WILL SEEK OUT AND AMPLIFY THOSE WHOSE VOICES ARE MARGINALISED AND SILENCED.
- WE WILL ALWAYS ACKNOWLEDGE THE WOMEN WHO CAME BEFORE AND PAVED THE WAY FOR US.
- WE WILL WORK COLLABORATIVELY WITH THOSE WHO SHARE OUR PRINCIPLES AND VALUES.
- WE WILL STRIVE TO BALANCE POWER WITHIN THE ORGANISATION IN LINE WITH OUR PRINCIPLES

OUR PRINCIPLES: ·

- WE WILL BE ACCOUNTABLE AND TRANSPARENT IN OUR ANTI-RACIST PLANS AND ACTIVITIES.
- WE COMMIT TO EDUCATION AND GROWTH THROUGH PRINCIPLED ACTIONS, TRAINING AND REFLECTIVE PRACTICE.
- WE WILL USE OUR STRATEGIC POSITION TO CREATE EQUITABLE PRACTICES AND PARTNERSHIPS, DEFERRING EXPERTISE TO OUR BY AND FOR PARTNERS.
- WE WILL DEVELOP AN ANTI-RACIST WORKPLACE CULTURE THAT IS SUPPORTIVE, EQUITABLE AND TRAUMA-INFORMED.
- WE WILL MAINTAIN A LEARNING CULTURE THAT REFLECTS ON ITS PROGRESS OPENLY.

We commit to the journey of becoming anti-racist and acknowledge it as a fundamental pillar of who we are.

We envision a world where domestic abuse and other forms of violence against women and children simply do not happen. Until then we believe we can and should work together toward:

1

A world where survivors are believed, supported, and empowered to rebuild their lives.

2

A world where perpetrators are held accountable and structural inequalities are dismantled.

3

A world where every sector, service, community, and individual takes responsibility for ending domestic abuse.

**We Stand Together with Survivors. We Stand Together for Justice.
We Stand Together for Change.**

Our Mission and Values

Our mission is to enable professionals, communities, and individuals to spot domestic abuse early and coordinate efforts that empower survivors, their families, and their children to be safe and build better futures.

We call this a coordinated community response, which enables survivors can get back onto their feet and recover with access to the right support when they need it.

We do this because, when it comes to domestic abuse, 'falling through the net' can mean death, life-changing injury or illness, or children forever denied a decent start in life.

We will do this with **empathy** for the trauma created by this issue and the diversity of those who suffer. We will **respect** people's choices, collaborate and celebrate successes. We will lead with **integrity**, embodying honesty and courage, humility and a commitment to our purpose.

We will deliver our mission by:

Creating impact at an individual level

Inspiring change at a local level

Influencing at a national level

We have three clear goals in the life of this strategy:

REACH

Reach as many survivors of domestic abuse as possible using our vital coordinated community response model by continuing to incubate and amplify approaches that create improved responses; focus on prevention and early intervention to reduce domestic abuse and MVAWG; transform systems: breaking down barriers, reducing oppression and ensuring accessibility for all survivors.

DEVELOP

Develop best practices in domestic abuse across the system by designing, developing, and disseminating best practice models in partnership with first-tier and by and for organisations; continuing to disseminate and celebrate best practices through our training, consultancy, and accreditation systems.; developing research that transforms practice using local and global knowledge and partnerships.

SUSTAIN















Sustain our organisation to ensure that our mission can be delivered by continuing to have effective financial and fundraising practices and by developing and maintaining a healthy workplace culture underpinned by our feminist and anti-racist principles.

The coordinated community response frees communities from domestic abuse. We will use this model to create impact at an individual level, inspire best practice at a local level and influence at a national level.



Survivor Voices are integral to coordinated communities ending domestic abuse

How you can help... See our website www.standingtogether.org.uk for more details

- Read and share our Strategy  
- Follow us, engage, react, re-post our socials  
- Spread the word and champion change ... possibly write to your MP  
- Look out and support our advocacy, research and campaigns including 'Blooming Strong' 
- Share resources or Partner with us 
- Support your local By & For organisation 
- Join our CCR network - become a CCR Leader! 
- Attend one or more of our training courses 
- Gain accreditation! 
- Ask us to support your organisation to be aware and supportive of DA and VAWG matters for your staff 
- Donate or Fundraise 
- Become a Standing Together Ambassador 