

Derby Women's Safety Charter for Consultation – Please add your comments and we will ensure that each comment will be given careful consideration through discussion. We are a very small team working on this so it is impossible to get it right the first time. However, we hope that with some of you agreeing to join the Advisory Board we will be able to get it better together and that we will be able to provide individualised feed back to you on our decisions about your contribution. Please add comments in a different colour and or refer to sections. Omissions can simple be added by referring to sections

Derby Women's Safety Charter

Fostering Safety, Equality, and Empowerment

Introduction:

Derby is a vibrant city with diverse communities, and it should be a place where all residents and visitors feel safe and respected, especially during nighttime hours. We recognise the need to prioritise women's safety and well-being in Derby. This Derby Women's Safety Charter is being developed for consultation, with a focus on inclusivity and community input that values equality and empowerment.

1. Building Awareness and Education:

- a. Elevate awareness about the importance of women's safety at night through inclusive public campaigns and consultative workshops.
- b. Advocate for the inclusion of diverse perspectives in safety and consent education within schools and community organisations.
- c. Collaborate with local authorities and organisations to promote responsible alcohol consumption, substance abuse prevention, and principles of consent.

2. Enhancing Infrastructure and Lighting:

- a. Collaborate with local authorities to improve street lighting in areas used by women during nighttime hours.
- b. Advocate for the development of well-lit and secure walking paths, public transport stops, and parking areas, taking into account women's specific needs.
- c. Ensure that public spaces, such as parks and recreational areas, are well-maintained and considerate of women's safety concerns.

3. Safe Transportation and Inclusivity:

- a. Promote safe and inclusive transportation options for women at night, including well-monitored public transport and ride-sharing services that prioritise women's needs.
- b. Advocate for the establishment of designated waiting areas for women using public transportation, with sufficient lighting and security personnel, taking into account the diversity of women's experiences.
- c. Encourage taxi and ride-sharing companies to implement strict background checks for drivers and actively promote gender-sensitive passenger safety measures.

4. Community Empowerment and Engagement:

- a. Establish a Women's Safety Advisory Board with diverse representation from women, especially those from marginalised communities, to actively address safety concerns.
- b. Organise community forums and town halls designed to prioritise diverse perspectives, providing women with a platform to express their concerns and ideas for improving safety.
- c. Promote the creation of neighbourhood watch programmes that empower women from all backgrounds.

5. Support and Resources for All:

- a. Collaborate closely with local organisations to provide accessible resources for women in need, including shelters, counseling, and legal aid.

- b. Develop a smartphone app that prioritises the safety of all women, allowing them to access emergency services, share their location with trusted contacts, and report safety concerns.
- c. Ensure that all public restroom facilities are not only well-maintained and well-lit but also designed to be inclusive and considerate of women's diverse needs.

6. Reporting Mechanisms and Sensitivity:

- a. Advocate for user-friendly and inclusive reporting mechanisms for incidents of harassment or violence, ensuring confidentiality and support for victims from all backgrounds.
- b. Encourage businesses to prominently display information about reporting mechanisms and support services, with a specific focus on intersectionality.
- c. Collaborate with law enforcement to establish a strict zero-tolerance policy towards all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination.

7. Intersectional Awareness and Celebration:

- a. Promote comprehensive diversity and intersectional sensitivity training for law enforcement, public transportation staff, and service providers.
- b. Celebrate and honour the contributions of diverse women, particularly those from marginalised communities, in Derby's history and culture through public art, events, and educational programs.
- c. Create safe spaces that actively cater to LGBTQ+ women and women from all marginalised backgrounds, ensuring their specific needs are met and celebrated.

8. Continuous Consultation and Improvement:

- a. Continuously assess the effectiveness of safety measures and policies, incorporating input from women and community organisations.
- b. Collaborate with academic institutions to conduct research on women's safety, using data to drive policy changes.

c. Adapt and improve safety initiatives to address evolving needs and challenges, with a strong commitment to equality, inclusivity, and community engagement.

Potential Additional section? Some members have already expressed concerns on including this section...What d you think?

Role of Key Entities in the Women's Safety Charter

To effectively address women's safety during nighttime hours and ensure a safer Derby, we emphasise the active role of women and girls themselves, alongside key entities including Derby City Council, Central Government, Derbyshire Constabulary, and the Crown Prosecution Service. Together, we must collaboratively fulfil the following crucial responsibilities:

1. The Central Role of Women's and Girls:

- a. women and girls should be actively involved in all decision-making about their safety. This includes, but is not restricted to how funding is spent and allocated, funding priorities etc.
- b. Women and girls should feel empowered to report incidents, knowing that their voices will be heard and respected.
- c. Women and girls are empowered to actively support and advocate for women's safety within their communities to create a ripple effect of change.

2. Allocation of Resources:

- a. Derby City Council should allocate adequate resources to support initiatives related to women's safety.
- b. Central Government is responsible for providing financial support to implement women's safety initiatives at the local level.

3. Legal Framework, Education and Impact:

- a. Central Government should review and enhance legislation pertaining to male violence against women and girls.
- b. Advocacy for comprehensive education programmes that promote consent, respect, and awareness is a shared responsibility.
- c. Annual Reporting on Impacts of policy measure, resources etc

4. Police Service and Accountability:

- a. Derbyshire Constabulary plays a vital role in allocating sufficient resources to handle and investigate cases of violence against women and girls promptly.
- b. Continue to implement robust evidence-taking procedures and ensure accountability in all stages of law enforcement.
- c. Training for officers on gender sensitivity, intersectionality, and cultural competence is essential.
- d. Transparent communication with the community and active engagement with the Women's Safety Advisory Board is crucial.

5. Prosecution and Support:

- a. The Crown Prosecution Service should ensure the presence of a well-funded and specialised team for prosecuting cases related to violence against women and girls.
- b. They should collaborate closely with the police service to build strong cases and advocate for survivors.
- c. Victim-centred approaches in the prosecution process, along with support and resources, should be prioritised.
- d. Raising awareness about the importance of reporting and prosecuting cases in partnership with community organisations is essential.

6. Third Sector and Community Support:

- a. Derby's third sector organisations should be well-funded, proactive, and responsive to the needs of survivors.

b. Developing sustainable programmes that provide immediate support and long-term assistance to survivors is crucial.

c. Collaboration with authorities to bridge gaps in services and cultural competence is vital.

d. Ensuring services are sensitive to cultural and intersectional differences, meeting the diverse needs of survivors, is a shared commitment. These diverse needs will include for marginalised women, including women without recourse to public funds, Older women and those affected by disabilities, Trans, ethnically minoritised and poor women.

By effectively collaborating and executing these responsibilities, we can collectively work towards a safer and more inclusive Derby for women and girls in public and private settings. Together, we can create a city that stands as a beacon of security, equality, and empowerment for all, with women actively participating in shaping their own safety.