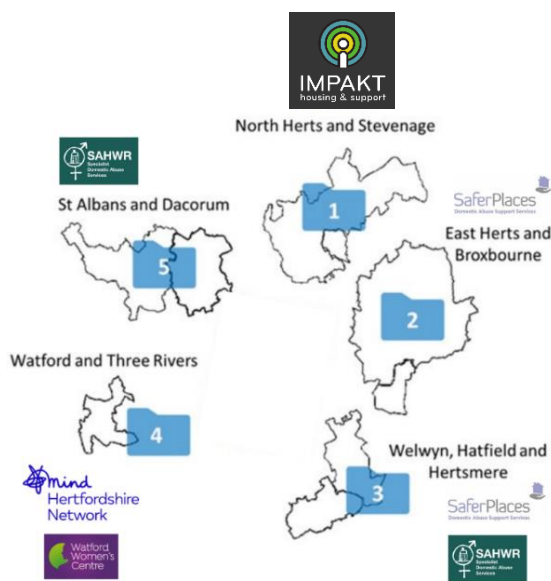


## THE HERTFORDSHIRE COMMUNITY OUTREACH SERVICE IS LIVE

The Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls partnership have launched a new county-wide Community Outreach Service (COS), dedicated to supporting people subjected to domestic abuse in Hertfordshire who are **not** at imminent risk of serious harm or homicide\*.

The two-year pilot went live on 1 July 2023 and is set to strengthen the existing network of support for domestic abuse victims and help development of new services.



The COS service will see specialist outreach workers working one-to-one with victims to:

- Conduct a risk and needs assessment
- Provide safety and support planning
- Offer practical and emotional support
- Work with other agencies to ensure victims' needs are met and the risk of further harm is minimised.

To ensure the diverse needs of victims and survivors of domestic abuse living in Hertfordshire can be met locally, the service is being delivered over five geographical areas (left).

### How do I refer someone into the Community Outreach Service?

Domestic abuse victims at standard and medium risk\* can be referred into the Community Outreach Service in their geographical area by contacting the local COS provider directly. Please see attached referral pathways for each COS provider.

Alternatively, when a victim's risk level is unclear, please contact the Domestic Abuse Support Hub (DASH) delivered by Herts Beacon. It will assess the risk before referring a victim to the appropriate service.

If you have any questions or would like to find out more about the Community Outreach Service, please contact [strategic.partnership@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:strategic.partnership@hertfordshire.gov.uk).

\*The Community Outreach Service (COS) is for domestic abuse victims at **standard and medium risk only**. Victims at high risk (scoring 14 or higher in a DASH assessment) should be referred to IDVA & MARAC as normal. Similarly, victims requiring safe accommodation should still be referred to Safer Places, and those with a general housing need should be referred to the Housing Navigator Service.