



Meeting: Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board

Date/Time: Friday, 29 September 2023 at 9.00 am

Location: Microsoft Teams

Contact: Euan Walters (0116 3056016)

Email: Euan.Walters@leics.gov.uk

AGENDA

<u>Item</u>	<u>Report by</u>
1. Welcome, introductions and apologies.	
2. Minutes of the previous meeting.	(Pages 3 - 6)
3. Rutland Council membership of the Leicestershire Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board.	(Pages 7 - 14)
4. Domestic Abuse Act 2021 updates.	(Pages 15 - 24)
5. Presentation from provider - Freeva.	
<i>A presentation will be given by a representative from Free from Violence and Abuse.</i>	
6. Any other business.	
7. Date of next meeting.	

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled to take place on Friday 15 December 2023 at 9.00am.



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Minutes of a meeting of the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board held via Microsoft Teams on Friday, 30 June 2023.

PRESENT

Mrs D. Taylor CC (in the Chair)

Cllr. L. Phillimore	Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group Chair - Blaby District Council
Cllr. L. Blackshaw	Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group Chair - Charnwood Borough Council
Cllr. P. Cumbers	Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group Chair – Melton Borough Council
Cllr. M. Mullaney	Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group Chair – Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
Cllr. D. Woodiwiss	Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group Chair – Harborough District Council
Cllr. K. Loydall	Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group Chair – Oadby and Wigston Borough Council
Mr. N. Bannister CC Jo Hewitt	Combined Fire Authority Public Health, Leicestershire County Council
Bob Bearne Rani Mahal	Probation Service Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Wendy Hope Jackie Duffy	Integrated Care Board Leicestershire GATE

Officers

Katie Herbert	Leicestershire County Council
Sabrina Hussain	Leicestershire County Council
Carly Turner	Leicestershire County Council
Sharon Cook	Leicestershire County Council
Lillie Green	Leicestershire County Council
Euan Walters	Leicestershire County Council
Judith Collins	Leicestershire County Council
Caroline Harbour	Blaby District Council
Rachel Burgess	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
Sarah Pickering	Harborough District Council
Mark Smith	Oadby and Wigston Borough Council
Rachel Parkin	Melton Borough Council
Lee Mansfield	North West Leicestershire District Council
Carla Barker	Leicestershire GATE

Apologies

Cllr. M. Wyatt

Cllr C. Wise

Chief Supt Johnny Starbuck

Joshna Mavji

Community Safety Partnership Strategy

Group Chair – North West

Leicestershire District Council

Rutland County Council

Leicestershire Police

Public Health, Leicestershire County

Council

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Board and the list of apologies was noted.

2. Appointment of Chairman.

RESOLVED:

That it be noted that Mrs. D. Taylor CC remains the Cabinet Lead Member for Community Safety at Leicestershire County Council and therefore according to the Terms of Reference she is appointed Chair of the Leicestershire Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board for the 2023/24 year.

3. Election of Vice Chairman.

RESOLVED:

That Mr. N. Bannister CC (Combined Fire Authority) be appointed Vice Chairman until the first meeting of the Board in the 2024/25 municipal year.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2022 were taken as read and confirmed as a correct record.

5. Key updates on contracts.

The Board considered a report of the Domestic Abuse Act Co-ordinator which provided an update on key contracts relating to Leicestershire County Council's duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. A copy of the report, marked 'Agenda Item 5', is filed in these minutes.

In response to a question from the Chair as to whether any contractors had been struggling to recruit staff it was explained that generally this had not been a problem. However, the Extended Domestic Abuse Team had been required to undertake two rounds of recruitment and Women's Aid had been struggling for staff which had some impact on delivery though they had still been able to provide their core service.

It was noted that soft market testing would be taking place in July 2023 with regards to the Safe Accommodation that was required to be provided under the Domestic Abuse Act and a tender exercise for the Accommodation was currently being worked on. Board members requested to receive regular updates regarding progress with the provision of Safe Accommodation in Leicestershire.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the contents of the report be noted:
- (b) That officers be requested to provide further updates to future meetings of the Board regarding the results of the Safe Accommodation Tender Exercise.

6. Presentations from Providers.

The Board received presentations from Leicestershire GATE and the Extended Domestic Abuse Team (Internal Team within Leicestershire County Council) regarding the work they carried out in connection with Domestic Abuse. A copy of the Extended Domestic Abuse Team presentation slides is filed with these minutes.

Arising from the presentations the following points were noted:

Leicestershire GATE

- (i) Leicestershire GATE was the only not-for-profit organisation in Leicestershire that worked with the gypsy and traveller communities and helped victims of domestic abuse from those communities. Most of the people they worked with were female but there were some males as well. Nationally 8 in 10 women from the gypsy and traveller communities had experienced Domestic Abuse and the figures were similar for Leicestershire. By their very nature the gypsy and traveller communities were hard to reach and required a different approach. With regards to safeguarding it was hard to encourage victims of domestic abuse to leave the culture that they were used to and it was even more difficult if they had children. Leicestershire GATE used a Family Support Worker who visited the gypsy and traveller communities and helped victims of violent relationships. Leicestershire GATE helped victims find alternative accommodation and they put safety plans in place. One of the problems with working with the gypsy and traveller community was that many of them could not read or write so different methods of communication had to be used.
- (ii) Freeva offered to work with Leicestershire GATE to support people from the gypsy and traveller communities who were victims of domestic abuse. Freeva ran an early awareness programme for perpetrators of domestic abuse and it was suggested that this could be used for gypsy and travellers. Further discussions around this would take place after the meeting.

Extended Domestic Abuse Team

- (iii) The Extended Domestic Abuse Team had been set up as part of the Children and Family Wellbeing Service at Leicestershire County Council. The Team comprised of 5 support and intervention workers. The team was designed to fill gaps not covered by other teams and agencies. Generally the people the team worked with had been involved in an incident for the first time or previous incidents they were involved in

were of low severity. The team worked with perpetrators as well as victims. The Team received referrals from the Police and the referrals were then triaged. Some were passed to the Children's Social Care team. Some were signposted to other agencies.

- (iv) In response to a question from a member it was clarified that the team put together Safety Plans for the victims they engaged with. This would include whether special methods were required for the victim to raise the alarm because the victim might not be able to speak without the perpetrator hearing them. It was also noted that the 999 telephone service enabled victims to raise an alert without speaking.
- (v) An additional part of the team was Domestic Abuse Liaison Officers who provided training to schools on how to deal with pupils that had been involved in domestic abuse.
- (vi) The Board requested that the presentation slides be circulated to all Board members after the meeting.
- (vii) There would be a domestic abuse exhibition at Highcross Shopping Centre, Leicester, from 25 November to 10 December 2023 showing artwork. The exhibition was being organised by Living Without Abuse and Leicestershire County Council.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the presentations be welcomed.

7. Dates of future meetings.

RESOLVED:

That future meetings of the Board take place on the following dates at 9.00am:

Friday 29 September 2023;
 Friday 15 December 2023;
 Friday 22 March 2024;
 Friday 28 June 2024;
 Friday 27 September 2024;
 Friday 13 December 2024.

9.00 - 10.00 am
 30 June 2023

CHAIRMAN

LEICESTERSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES' STRATEGY BOARD

29th SEPTEMBER 2023

RUTLAND COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE DOMESTIC ABUSE LOCAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Introduction

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (DALPB) for Rutland County Council to become members of the Board.
2. The report sets out background information and rationale, the legal basis for the application, potential implications/benefits together with recommendations.

Background and Legal Basis

3. Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Boards are required as a result of Section 58 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
4. Section 58(1) of the Act states that "A relevant local authority in England must appoint a domestic abuse local partnership board". Section 61 of the Act defines a relevant local authority as:
 - (a) a County Council;
 - (b) a District Council for an area for which there is no County Council;
 - (c) the Greater London Authority;
 - (d) the Council of the Isles of Scilly.
5. The DALPB was established by Leicestershire County Council to ensure regulatory compliance. It carries out a governance and consultative role for certain functions including:
 - (a) Assessing the need for accommodation-based domestic abuse support for all victims.
 - (b) Supporting the development and publication of the Domestic Abuse Reduction Strategy and giving effect to the Strategy (through monitoring commissioning /de-commissioning needs).
 - (c) Ensuring representation of marginalised groups and those who are underrepresented in local services.
6. Rutland County Council has attended the meetings of this Board as a participating observer. If Rutland's membership of the Board is formalised Rutland Council has indicated that it will retain a group within Rutland to oversee

domestic abuse matters to ensure regulatory compliance under Section 58 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

7. Section 58(2) of the Act specifies which organisations must be represented on domestic abuse local partnership boards. This list is not exhaustive and therefore additional members can be added to the DALPB as it wishes.
8. Statutory guidance issued under the Act (*"Delivery of Support for Victims of Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Services" Section B1 and B2*) specifically broadens membership to include a very wide-range of partners membership. The guidance gives the following steer:

"Tier one authorities may choose to work in close partnership with other tier one authorities to deliver part 4 duties jointly across more than one local authority area, for example working as a regional cluster" (Section B1.1)

"Tier one authorities are encouraged to work collaboratively with neighbouring tier one authorities by, as a minimum sharing local data and service information to support in understanding potential need, join up and consistency" (Section B1.2)

"Where tier one authorities choose to deliver the duty jointly with other tier one authorities, they must ensure the Board adheres to the relevant requirements set out above (section B1 bullets a-g setting out required attendees) – all tier one areas covered under the joint arrangement must be represented" (Section B2.19)

The caveats referenced above 'B1 bullets a-g' refer to attendance by specific partners at the meeting, (these attend DALPB).

Importantly the above extract makes it clear that broader tier 1 collaboration is encouraged and supported.

Rationale for Membership

9. Domestic abuse matters are not restricted to County boundaries and the proposal will provide opportunities to better share information, intelligence and resources and help reduce duplication of work with many of the stakeholders involved covering both Leicestershire and Rutland.
10. A more formalised arrangement with a dedicated Rutland CC attendee at DALPB will engender a more effective partnership working and in particular benefit bordering Districts and Boroughs. By working collaboratively public service organisations can share, expertise, ideas and resources and cost for mutual benefit.

Additional Considerations

11. The Rutland County Council membership of the DALPB will it is proposed necessitate a number of additional ancillary changes, including:
- (a) Incorporation of Rutland CC data and analysis into DALPB workstreams;
 - (b) Amendments to the DALPB Terms of Reference (TOR) to include Rutland CC membership and changing the name of the Board to 'Leicestershire and Rutland Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board'. This is a minimal change given tier one authorities are encouraged to cooperate but still required to fulfil responsibilities under legislation in their own right.
12. Both Leicestershire County Council and Rutland Council's respective Cabinets have considered and agreed the proposal subject to the Boards approval.

Recommendations

13. The Board are asked to consider the contents of this report and the proposal that Rutland County Council become members of the Board, and are asked to;
- (a) Approve Rutland CC membership of the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board.
 - (b) Subject to the above, approve the proposed amendments to the DALPB Terms of Reference to reflect Rutland CC membership.
 - (c) Indicate any additional/alternate actions required.

Officers to Contact

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Community Safety Coordinator
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E-mail: rik.basra@leics.gov.uk

Appendix 1 – Draft DALPB Terms of Reference

DRAFT**APPENDIX 1**

**Leicestershire and Rutland Domestic Abuse Local Partnership
Board**

Terms of Reference

Purpose and Role

The Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board is a partnership group responsible for supporting Leicestershire County Council in meeting its duty under Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

The Board will work together to support, advise, and work in partnership with Leicestershire County Council to ensure victims of domestic abuse have access to adequate and appropriate support within relevant safe accommodation services. The Board will establish an equitable partnership that reflects the needs of those impacted by domestic abuse in the local area and works to ensure victims of domestic abuse have access to appropriate and specialist support within relevant safe accommodation services.

The Board will work together to improve outcomes for victims of domestic abuse, including their children, through a strategic approach to identifying and addressing gaps in support within relevant safe accommodation services.

Frequency of meetings

The Board will meet quarterly.

Membership

The Board is made up of a number of responsible bodies and agencies that by law, must be represented:

Tier one local authority representative/s:

Cabinet Lead Member for Community Safety, Leicestershire County Council.
Assistant Director, Targeted Early Help and Children's Social Care, Leicestershire County Council.
Public Health, Leicestershire County Council.

Lead Member for Community Safety, Rutland County Council.

Tier two local authority representatives:

Lead member safer communities Blaby District Council / CSP Chair
 Lead member safer communities Charnwood Borough Council / CSP Chair
 Lead member safer communities Harborough District Council /CSP Chair
 Lead member safer communities Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council / CSP Chair
 Lead member safer communities Melton Borough Council /CSP Chair
 Lead member safer communities North West Leicestershire District Council /CSP Chair
 Lead member safer communities Oadby and Wigston Borough Council / CSP Chair
 Director (Community Services) Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council / Chair of Districts Chief Housing Officer Group).

Representatives of victims of domestic abuse:

Healthy Homes Officer, Public Health, Leicestershire County Council.

Voluntary Sector Providers.

Representative/s of children of domestic abuse:

Women's Aid Leicestershire.

Representative/s for charities and other voluntary organisations that work with victims of domestic abuse in the area], including specialist and by and for services:

CEO, Women's Aid Leicestershire
 CEO, Living Without Abuse
 CEO, Freeva
 Project Officer, GATE
 CEO, LGBT Centre
 CEO, Panaghar
 CEO, Zinthy Trust
 CEO, New Dawn New Day

Representative/s for health care services:

Integrated Care Board (or any successor body).

Representative/s for policing or criminal justice:

Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire
 Leicestershire Police
 National Probation Service

Chairing the Board

The Board will be chaired by the Cabinet Lead Member for Community Safety, Leicestershire County Council.

The Vice Chair of the Board will be the Cabinet Lead Member for Community Safety, Rutland County Council.

Members of the Board are responsible for ensuring they report back and feed into the Board on behalf of their represented group / body.

Roles and responsibilities

The Board will:

Provide advice and data to support Leicestershire County Council to undertake a robust local needs assessment to identify and understand the needs of domestic abuse victims within relevant safe accommodation, in their area (including those that present from out of area).

Provide expert advice and data to support the development of a local strategy, agreeing the appropriate steps needed to meet the needs identified – ensuring the needs of all victims, including those with protected characteristics and / or additional complex needs, are represented and met through the strategy.

Support Leicestershire County Council to effectively engage with domestic abuse victims and expert services in understanding the range and complexity of needs.

Support Leicestershire County Council to make commissioning and decommissioning decisions (where appropriate). This can include when and how commissioning is undertaken to ensure the best and most appropriate services are made available for victims.

Note: local authorities should take into consideration that some Board members may have a conflict of interest. Domestic abuse relevant safe accommodation service providers will not be involved with local commissioning decisions in relation to this duty.

Support in ensuring join up across other related areas such as alcohol and drug treatment services, housing, health, early years and childhood support, social services and police and crime services [not limited to].

Advise and support in dealing with issues raised and identified from engagement through formal and informal routes.

Provide advice to Leicestershire County Council about the provision of other local authority domestic abuse support.

All issues will be escalated to the Leicestershire County Council Scrutiny Commission.

Tier one authorities should agree a clear escalation process, with the Board, which members and other local organisations can utilise to raise concerns in regard to the implementation of the duties.

Voting

One representative from each of the responsible bodies and agencies that by law must be represented on the Board is entitled to vote on any matter under discussion by the Board, with the exception that if the vote relates to commissioning or decommissioning of services, Voluntary Sector Service Providers will not be entitled to vote on that matter.

Quorum

The quorum for meetings of the Board will be a minimum of 6 voting members, this to include one representative from Leicestershire County Council and representatives from a minimum of 3 other partner agencies.

Agendas

Members will be able to put forward suggested agenda items for consideration. The secretariat will circulate final agendas 5 working days ahead of meetings. Standing agenda items will include:

- Data Report;
- Authentic Voice;
- Updates from commissioned services.

Absence

Where members are unable to attend a meeting, they are responsible for informing the Board ahead of the meeting and, as far as possible, should ensure a representative is present on behalf of the organisation / body.

Reporting

The Chair / Board will report back to:

- The Leicestershire County Council DA Strategy Working Group (quarterly).
- Leicestershire County Council Scrutiny Commission (annually).
- The Strategic Partnership Board (SPB) (Biannually).

The Board will support Leicestershire County Council in reporting back to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) on delivering the duty in line with statutory guidance and the standardised reporting form.

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**LEICESTERSHIRE DOMESTIC ABUSE LOCAL PARTNERSHIP
BOARD**

29th SEPTEMBER 2023

DOMESTIC ABUSE ACT 2021 UPDATES

Introduction

1. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 places several statutory duties on the County Council primarily to provide accommodation-based support to victims of domestic abuse and their children.
2. This will be achieved through the requirement to undertake a needs assessment, publish a Domestic Abuse Strategy, and establish a Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) has allocated funding to each local authority to assist in discharging the duties.

Background

3. The Domestic Abuse Act received royal assent in April 2021. The Act places a duty on Tier one local authorities (the County Council) to provide accommodation-based support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation and provides clarity over governance and accountability, requiring tier two councils (district councils), to co-operate with the lead local authority.
4. The Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) has allocated funding to each local authority for the delivery of the Safe Accommodation duty under the DA Act.
5. Tier one local authorities have received the following funding, whilst each district has received approximately £33,000 for each year.
 - i. DA duty 2021-2022 allocation: £1,127,205
 - ii. DA duty 2022-2023 allocation: £1,130,326
 - iii. DA duty 2023-2024 allocation: £1,152,936
 - iv. To receive DA duty 2024-2025 allocation: £1,174,689
6. The legislation requires the County Council to assess the need for accommodation-based Domestic Abuse support across Leicestershire for all

victims. The national domestic abuse charity Safelives assisted with this Needs Assessment. Data has been collated from numerous agencies and engagement with victims and survivors of DA has been ongoing to collate information about their experiences.

7. The Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment is a comprehensive tool that enables the capture of data covering a range of themes relating to safe accommodation. This Needs Assessment has been used to inform the development of a strategy for the provision of support in Leicestershire.
8. The County Council Domestic Abuse Reduction Strategy went live on 6th January 2022.

The Leicestershire DA Reduction Strategy 2022-25 includes five priorities

- I. Early Intervention and Prevention
- II. Targeted support
- III. Reachable services
- IV. Safe accommodation
- V. Strong Partnerships

9. The priorities have been identified through engagement with stakeholders and partners, analysing known gaps in provision and the statutory duty. These priorities have been strengthened by the Safelives Needs Assessment and the consultation.
10. The County Council funding is within the Children and Family Services directorate budget overseen by the Director of Children and Family Services and the DA Locality Partnership Board who will continue to monitor outcomes against the use of these funds.
11. The table below demonstrates services that have commissioned from the year one DA Act funding.

<u>Support service</u>	<u>Service provider</u>	<u>Time period</u>	<u>Contract start dates/status</u>
Domestic Abuse Act Coordinator Sabrina_hussain@leics.gov.uk	Leicestershire County Council	2 years fixed term	In post
Commissioning officer	Leicestershire County Council	2 years fixed term	In post
Substance misuse specialist caroline.gadsby@turning-point.co.uk	Turning Point	2 years	Service start date: 13.06.2022
Gypsy Roma and Traveller specialist jduffy.leicestershiregate@gmail.com	Leicestershire Gate	2 years	Service start date: 01/08/2022
Specialist DA Support LGBT+ Victims zoe@leicesterlgbtcentre.org	Leicester LGBT service	2 years	Service start date: 01/07/2022
Community based support for male victims (Adam Project) Sophie.McGoff@wallaction.org.uk	Women's Aid Leicestershire	2 years	Service start date: 01/07/2022
Helpline support for male victims claire@freeva.org.uk	Freeva	2 years	Service start date: 01/09/2022
BAME advisor claire@freeva.org.uk	Freeva	2 years	Service start date: 01/06/2022
Counselling service for adults claire@freeva.org.uk	Freeva	2 years	Service start date: 01/06/2022
Counselling service for young people claire@freeva.org.uk	Freeva	1.5 years	Service start date: 01/10/22
Children's support service Sophie.McGoff@wallaction.org.uk	JADA+ via Women's Aid	1 year	Service start date: 31/05/2022
x2 Outreach workers debbie@lwa.org.uk	Living without Abuse	2 years	Service start date: 31/05/2022
County Family service: x2 family workers debbie@lwa.org.uk	Living without Abuse	2 years	Service start date: 31/05/2022

part time young person's IDVA debbie@lwa.org.uk	Living without Abuse	2 years	Service start date: 31/05/2022
Contribution to MARAC manager and Administrator costs lucy.batchelor@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk	MARAC	2 years	Year 1 money sent: 09/03/2022

Year 1 service offers

12. **Turning Point**: To provide a specialist service for those individuals who are subject to domestic abuse and in addition have substance misuse issues that would benefit from specialist interventions and support in relation to their substance misuse. The aim of the service is to provide safe, sensitive, and trauma-informed interventions in a timely manner in appropriate locations.
13. **Leicestershire GATE**: To support and capture the voice of Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller victims of domestic abuse and to help them navigate their way out of violence and into a life without threat or intimidation.
14. **Leicestershire LGBT+ centre**: The service will provide specialist support for individual victims/survivors of domestic abuse who are from LGBTQ+ community.
Funding has been given for two posts. Both roles will work together to meet the needs of the service users.
- I. **Domestic Abuse Service Counsellor**: To provide counselling to all LGBTQ+ communities including straight allies, family members and friends.
 - II. **Domestic Abuse Support worker**: To provide support to domestic abuse victims and survivors, their friends, their families, and those working with a victim or survivor. The aim of the service is to provide safe, accessible, and appropriate services to combat social isolation, exclusion and discrimination that LGBTQ+ people face.
15. **Women's aid-ADAM project**: The service will provide confidential, emotional, and practical outreach support to male victims/survivors of domestic abuse. The service will also deliver training, raise awareness, develop active social media presence and marketing material.
16. **FREEVA Contracts**
- I. **Male helpline worker**: To provide specialist confidential helpline support to male victims and survivors of domestic abuse.
 - II. **BAME advisor**: The aim of the service is to provide emotional and practical community-based support to victims of domestic abuse who are from the BAME community.

- III. Adult Counsellor: This is a confidential counselling service for individuals who are or have been a victim of domestic abuse.
- IV. Young person's counsellor: To provide support/counselling to children & young people between the ages of 5 to 18.

17. **Women's aid: Journey Away from Domestic Abuse (JADA+) project**: To provide children/young people with the security to talk about their experience of domestic abuse and to receive the appropriate support.

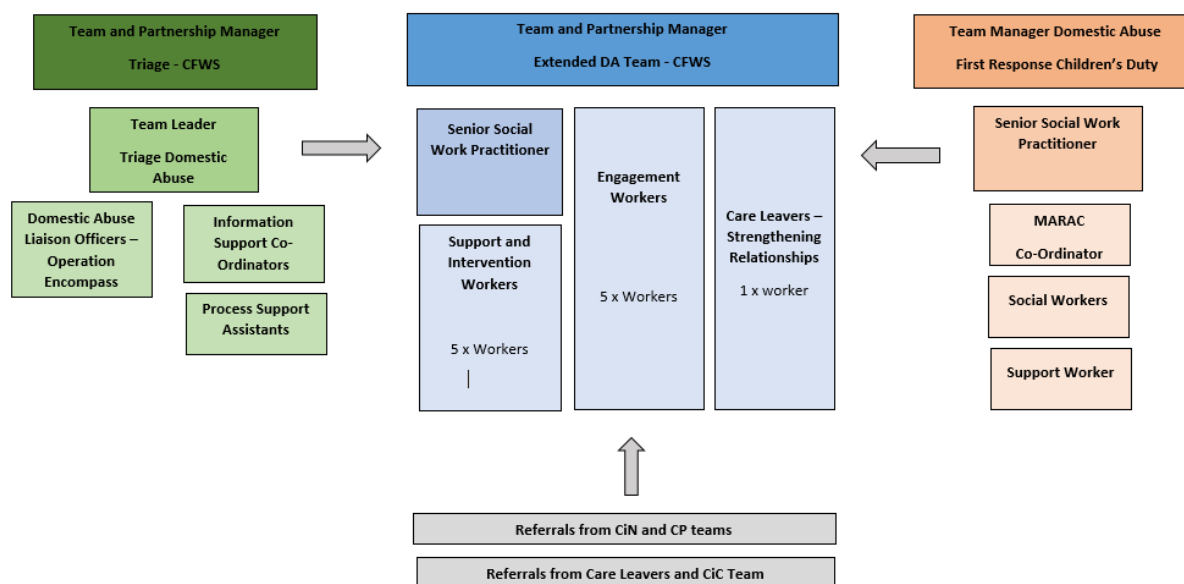
18. **Living Without Abuse (LWA) contracts**

- I. The contract will provide additional funding within the Outreach Service existing contract, to enable LWA to deliver Outreach support and Group Programme delivery to service users of domestic abuse. This will allow for x2 additional Outreach Workers to support the service by reducing waiting lists and waiting times for domestic abuse victims and survivors.
- II. X1 part time Young Persons IDVA: A pro-active Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service for young people, focusing on high/very high-risk victims of domestic abuse
- III. County Family Service: funding within the County Family Support Service existing contract, to enable LWA to build capacity, reduce current waiting lists and continue to provide support to service users. The aim of the service is to provide support the service of children and young people who have witnessed abuse in their family or have been/ are in abusive relationships of their own.

Year 2 Allocations

19. The DA Act funding from year 2 has been assigned to a Leicestershire County Council Domestic Abuse team. The aim of this team is to provide specialist, support, and assistance to victims of domestic abuse.

The structure of the team with workers currently in post is as follows:



20. The above structure shows the different workstreams of the Extended DA Team and how they link to other service areas within CFS. All posts are now filled within this team and no concerns raised.

Extended DA Team updates

21. Support and Intervention Workers: since the workstream began in January we have had contact with over 300 families linked to around 570 children. Prior to the role of these workers, many of these families would not have received a service from CFS at all and those who did are likely to have waited over a month for contact from a worker if referred for an Early Help worker or group offer. Of the families referred, we have only had around 6 families who we have not been able to establish any contact with at all, and for those not wanting ongoing specific support, there are as a minimum telephone conversation being had with these families, talking about details of the referral, advice around safety planning considerations and details shared about both CFWS and other support services available to them. For those wanting support, contact consists of up to 4 visits over a period of up to four weeks.

22. Domestic Abuse Liaison Officers: A combination of briefings and more detailed training sessions have been developed, which incorporate information about what DA is, what sorts of behaviours they may expect to see in children who are experiencing this within their homes and how they can best respond to these children and families. This includes feedback from a care experienced

young person as to what is most likely to be helpful for young people in these situations. At present, they have delivered briefings to representatives from over 80 schools and training sessions to over 500 staff members across 34 different schools. A further 24 schools have training booked for various dates between now and September.

23. The two workers have undertaken training with Barnardo's around Trauma Informed Practice and are now qualified to deliver their training programme, with plans in place to progress this offer of training to schools.

24. Contracts within the Domestic abuse team will be extended until November 2024.

Safe Accommodation

25. Our Safelives Needs Assessment has shown there is a huge shortage in safe accommodation units across Leicestershire. Therefore, we are undertaking a tender exercise to procure appropriate units. Having additional units allows victims of domestic abuse the opportunity to safely leave perpetrators. The types of accommodation will be broken down in Lots, this will give different providers the opportunity to bid for more than one Lot, depending on their specialism and to ensure that all our communities have housing which will be appropriate for them.

- Lot 1: Specialist units for BAME communities
- Lot 2: Units for Male victims
- Lot 3: Generic Units: to include- accessible accommodation for older victims/victims with disabilities and those with older children particularly boys.
- Lot 4: Family sized units: to include- those with pets

26. We launched Soft Market Testing to support our tender exercise. This gives potential providers and other stakeholders the opportunity to express their interests and feed in their views about the potential service model and service definitions. Responses have now been received from 7 providers who are pleased with the types of accommodation we hope to commission. We are currently working on finalising our service specifications. Based on our current timeline we aim for the safe accommodation service to start from 1st April 2024.

Flexible Fund

27. We are currently drawing up plans for this fund with District/Boroughs on how to best support victims and survivors of domestic abuse; this will include funding for Protective Orders - we are exploring the safest way to allow families who have been affected by domestic abuse to stay in their home by removing perpetrators through the appropriate orders, where safe to do so

as District housing colleagues have informed us that homelessness caused by DA has risen significantly and is very costly.

28. This fund will also include the facility to purchase household furniture. Plans are being developed on how to provide families affected by domestic abuse with a furniture fund to help rebuild their lives after relocating. We are in talks with District Councils around the delivery of this work and how we can manage this.

Comms for commissioned services

29. All providers are responsible for promoting their services, they have been asked to inform Leicestershire County Council once plans have been finalised for them to be promoted through our platforms. We are currently working on a pregnancy and maternity campaign which will run for over 6 months, we will be working with Public Health and the NHS to raise awareness. We will be doing social media, articles both internally and in Leicestershire matters and press releases to support this work.

Partnership working

30. We aim to have quarterly Domestic Abuse Network Events. The next one has been arranged for October 2023. Commissioned providers and relevant Leicestershire County Council staff attend these events. The progress of DA services is discussed along with any issues and ways collaborative working can be encouraged.
31. The DA Act Co-ordinator is in regular contact with the District Link Workers, and it shows there is better domestic abuse practice in areas.
32. A Domestic Abuse Act Working Group has been set up where District Managers, Partners and Leicestershire County Council staff attend. This is a great opportunity to discuss the DA Act 2021 in more detail and ways services can be improved.

Monitoring and Evaluation

33. Robust Monitoring and Evaluation processes have been established within all commissioning arrangements to inform future decision making across the system. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) have requested information which has been incorporated to contracts.
34. All domestic abuse providers will be monitored against a set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

35. Providers will be expected to evidence how they deliver and monitor outcome-based quality provision within the annual contract management meetings.
36. Providers will do all that is reasonably within their control to support the Council to achieve a positive year-on-year performance and to continuously improve their performance, as measured by:
- The Leicestershire County Council Needs Assessment/Strategy;
 - DLUHC annual reporting;
 - Voice of victims and survivors of domestic abuse.
37. If there are any performance issues raised by colleagues, the Council may, according to need and risk, conduct an unannounced visit to your provision or request a formal meeting.

Commissioned services updates

38. Turning Point-this service has supported a total of 83 service users.
39. Women's Aid-JADA + service has supported 61 children with direct, one to one support. There has been a total of 758 face to face contacts with service users. Waiting list times have reduced dramatically. Prior to the funding the average wait time for support was between 12 and 18 months. Since funding the wait time for a family has been between four and eight weeks.
40. Freeva Contracts:
- Male caseworker: 99 male victims have been supported since the start of the project. The service has provided a quote from a male victim accessing support: 'I am alive today thanks to this support. Before the support I wanted to take my own life. My life has changed because I have been able to have this support'.
 - 273 BAME Victims supported since the start of the project.
 - Adult counsellor post: 57 Clients accessed support - 40 undertaking/completed counselling support.
 - Young Person's counsellor post: 27 Referrals to date. 12 service users are currently being supported.
41. Living without Abuse (LWA) have supported 150 children and young people, including 20 high risk young people. Within the Outreach service they have supported 68 adults.
42. Leicestershire Gate: Since funding this provider has supported 11 service users.
43. Leicester LGBT centre: this service has had 13 referrals since the contract started. Of these, 3 didn't engage in the service (either never responded to

contact attempts, or never attended appointments offered) 8 have been seen by a counsellor. 4 of these 8 remain in counselling with the service. 2 people are on a waiting list to be seen by a counsellor (these both were referred in April and May).

Last quarter data from Providers

Provider	Turning Point	Leicester LGBTQ+ Centre		Leics GATE	FREEVA				LWA		
In post	1/1 worker	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	2 x P/T	3 x P/T
Roles	Specialist Dmestic Abuse recovery worker	DA counsellor	DA Support worker	DA family Support worker	Male victim of DA	BAME specialist advisor	Adult Counsellor	YP counsellor	YP IDVA	Family SW	Otreach Worker
Number of referrals in Quarter 1	21	1	0	21	32	96	32	8	10	52	133

DLUHC updates

44. Tier 1 local authorities are required to submit an annual report to the department setting out how they have met their duty. The last report was submitted on 30th June 2023.

Officers to Contact:

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