



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

Date/Time: **Friday, 15 December 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 meeting held on 29 September 2023.	(Pages 3 - 6)
3. Domestic Abuse Act 2021 updates.	(Pages 7 - 18)
4. Presentation from provider - LGBT+ Centre.	
5. Any other business.	
6. Date of next meeting.	

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled to take place on Friday 22 March 2024 at 9.00am.



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Minutes of a meeting of the Leicestershire Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board held via Microsoft Teams video conferencing on Friday, 29 September 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. 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
Cllr. G. Waller	Rutland County Council
Joshna Mavji	Public Health, Leicestershire County Council
Bob Bearne	Probation Service
Wendy Hope	Integrated Care Board
Carla Barker	Leicestershire GATE
Suki Kaur	Freeva
Claire Weddle	Freeva
Sophie McGoff	Women’s Aid Leicestershire
Debbie Hughes	Living Without Abuse

Officers

Gurjit Samra-Rai	Leicestershire County Council
Sabrina Hussain	Leicestershire County Council
Sharon Cook	Leicestershire County Council
Lillie Green	Leicestershire County Council
Euan Walters	Leicestershire County Council
Giuseppe Vassallo	Charnwood Borough Council
Rachel Burgess	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

Apologies

Cllr. M. Mullaney	Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group Chair – Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
Cllr. M. Wyatt	Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group Chair – North West Leicestershire District Council
Cllr C. Wise	Rutland County Council
Mr. N. Bannister CC	Combined Fire Authority
Chief Supt Johnny Starbuck	Leicestershire Police
Carly Turner	Leicestershire County Council

Mark Smith

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council

8. Welcome, introductions and apologies.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Board, introductions were made and the list of apologies was noted.

9. Minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 June 2023 were taken as read and confirmed as a correct record.

10. Rutland Council membership of the Leicestershire Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board.

The Board considered a report of Rik Basra, Community Safety Coordinator, Leicestershire County Council which sought approval for Rutland County Council to become members of the Board. The report was presented by Gurjit Samra-Rai, Community Safety Manager, Leicestershire County Council. A copy of the report, marked 'Agenda Item 3', is filed with these minutes.

It was explained that were Rutland County Council to become members of the Board the Leicestershire Domestic Abuse Reduction Strategy would be updated to include reference to Rutland, and ultimately the aim would be to have one Domestic Abuse Reduction Strategy covering both Leicestershire and Rutland.

Members welcomed the proposals and voiced their support for greater partnership working between Leicestershire and Rutland with regards to Domestic Abuse.

It was requested that the new Terms of Reference for the Board be amended so that the Rutland representative on the Board be described as "the Rutland County Council Cabinet member with responsibility for Community Safety" rather than "the Cabinet Lead Member for Community Safety". This was because changes to the Rutland County Council Cabinet portfolios were expected at some point.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Rutland County Council become members of the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board and the name of the Board be changed to the Leicestershire and Rutland Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board.
- (b) That the proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Board be approved, plus the additional amendment that the Rutland representative on the Board be described as "the Rutland County Council Cabinet member with responsibility for Community Safety".

11. Domestic Abuse Act 2021 updates.

The Board considered a report of Gurjit Samra-Rai, Community Safety Manager, Leicestershire County Council which provided an update on how the Council's duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 were being fulfilled including the duty to provide accommodation-based support to victims of domestic abuse and their children. A copy of the report, marked 'Agenda Item 4', is filed with these minutes.

Arising from discussions the following points were noted:

- (i) A Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment had also been carried out in Rutland as well as in Leicestershire and as Rutland County Council had now become a formal member of the Board future updates to the Board would cover information relating to Rutland.
- (ii) There was a shortage of accommodation for victims of domestic abuse in Leicestershire and it was not expected that this problem would be solved imminently. Leicestershire County Council was doing the best it could with the money and accommodation that was available. The most vulnerable and the homeless were being prioritised.
- (iii) With regards to the performance data that came to the Board the latest Board report contained quarterly data from providers and for future Board meetings this data could be broken down even further into demographics. Data for Rutland would also be included.
- (iv) In response to a query from a member as to whether any of the services being put in place were in relation to domestic abuse against the elderly it was explained that this was a known issue and relevant data was collected. Whilst Age UK did not have a specific service for Domestic Abuse, support for the elderly was available in Leicestershire but it did not come out of the Domestic Abuse Act funding. The Living Without Abuse outreach workers did work with older people. Freeva also supported the elderly.
- (v) The County Council usually carried out publicity campaigns around Christmas raising awareness of domestic abuse issues which often occurred during that season. Whilst a campaign had not been put in place yet for the upcoming Christmas work on this was due to begin. Living Without Abuse were carrying out their own campaign in November/December 2023 to make the public aware of what Domestic Abuse services would be available around the Christmas period. It was agreed that further details of this campaign would be circulated to Board members after the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the update on the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 duties, and particularly the accommodation-based support, be noted.

12. Presentation from provider - Freeva.

The Board received a presentation from Claire Weddle, Head of Victim Services, Freeva regarding the work of Freeva. A copy of the presentation slides is filed with these minutes.

Arising from discussions the following points were noted:

- (i) There had been a significant increase in the number of male victims accessing support and a dedicated male victim option was being added to the Freeva helpline in December 2023.

- (ii) Freeva had seen a large increase in the number of people from the gypsy and traveller communities that they worked with. The County Council also commissioned a service from Leicestershire GATE which supported victims of domestic abuse in the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities. Reassurance was given that there was no duplication of work between the two organisations.
- (iii) A member raised concerns that as the contract with Freeva had not yet been renewed, staff at Freeva could be worried about their job security and look for employment elsewhere. In response reassurance was given that the County Council was currently evaluating the data in relation to the Freeva contract and if the decision was made to renew the contract, Freeva staff would be informed well before the contract ended.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the presentation be noted.

13. Any other business.

It was suggested that more providers of commissioned services should give presentations at future Board meetings. A member suggested that case studies could be provided which showed how a victim came to enter and exit a domestic abuse service. It was agreed that further consideration would be given to this after the meeting.

It was noted that Living Without Abuse, in partnership with Surviving Economic Abuse (SEA), were working on the Compass Project which explored how best practice in coordinated community responses to economic abuse could increase economic safety for victim-survivors of domestic abuse. It was agreed that a presentation on this Project would be provided at the next meeting of the Board.

14. Date of next meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the next meeting of the Board take place on Friday 15 December 2023 at 9.00am.

9.00 - 9.55 am
29 September 2023

CHAIRMAN



**LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND DOMESTIC ABUSE LOCAL
PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

15th DECEMBER 2023

DOMESTIC ABUSE ACT 2021 UPDATES

Introduction

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Board on the work underway to provide victims of Domestic Abuse (DA) safe accommodation and support as directed through the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

Background

2. The Board will recall from previous reports the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 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, requiring tier two councils (district councils), to co-operate with the lead local authority.

Funding to Date

3. 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.
4. 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. DA duty 2024-2025 allocation: £1,174,689
(*not confirmed*)

Needs Assessment

5. The legislation requires the County Council to assess the need for accommodation-based Domestic Abuse support across Leicestershire for all victims. The Board will recall the national domestic abuse charity Safelives assisted with the initial Needs Assessment in 2021-2022

6. A lot of work has been commissioned since the Needs Assessment was undertaken, it would be beneficial to understand what impact this has had and what further the Partnership should consider. The review will also inform the DA Reduction Strategy and Action Plan going forward. Furthermore, the legislation requires for regular reviews of the Needs Assessment to be carried out.
7. The recommendation is that Safe Lives undertake a review of the Needs Assessment at a cost of £4,400. The proposal from Safe Lives is attached at Appendix A.

DLUHC Funding

8. Table 1 below will remind members what services have been commissioned in year 1:

<u>Support service</u>	<u>Service provider</u>	<u>Time period</u>	<u>Contract start dates/status</u>
Domestic Abuse Act Coordinator	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

19. A significant sum of year 2 allocation was assigned to a Leicestershire County Council Domestic Abuse team to provide specialist support and assistance to victims of domestic abuse.
20. Table 2 below sets out the forward plan for year 3 commissioned services subject to approval from the Board.

Contract & Provider	Contract Details	Contract Management Decisions	Actions
1. Specialist Domestic Abuse Substance Misuse Support for Victims (Turning Point)	Contract Start Date (CSD): 13/06/2022 Contract End Date (CED): 12/06/2024	Contract Management Meeting (CMM) - 7th August 2023 Service going well Referrals – 35 BAME – 4	Extension Report to go through the approval process

	<p>1 + 1 year extension option available (12/06/2025)</p> <p>Total Contract Value (TCV): £124,864</p>	<p><1 month – 30</p> <p>Recommendation: Extend</p>	
<p>2. Specialist Domestic Abuse Support for Victims from Gypsy / Roma / Traveller (GRT) Communities.</p> <p>(Leicestershire GATE)</p>	<p>CSD: 01/08/2022 CED: 31/07/2024</p> <p>1 + 1 year extension option available (31/07/2025)</p> <p>TCV: £90,000</p>	<p>CMM -9th October 2023</p> <p>Service going well, Referrals 27, 19 – employment education needs 21 -finance 13 – housing 22 MH</p> <p>Recommendation: Extend</p>	<p>Extension Report to go through the approval process</p>
<p>3. Domestic Abuse Support For LGBTQ+ Victims Specialist Service</p> <p>(LGBT+ centre)</p>	<p>CSD: 01/07/2022 CED:30/06/2024</p> <p>1 + 1 year extension option available (30/06/2025)</p> <p>TCV: £84,000</p>	<p>CMM - 23rd August 2023.</p> <p>Query on underspend from yr 1/yr2 for outreach post as unable to recruit to post and low referral number. Revised Business Case submitted, new CEO</p> <p>Recommendation: Extend</p>	<p>Extension Report to go through the approval process</p> <p>KG and GSR met with LGBT discussed business proposal from LGBT going forward.</p>
<p>4. Domestic Abuse Additional Resource for Family Support Workers Within the County Family Service</p> <p>(LIVING WITHOUT ABUSE)</p>	<p>CSD: 01/06/2022 CED:30/05/2024</p> <p>TCV: £148,000</p>	<p>This direct award ends 30/05/24 with no extension options.</p> <p>CMM - 5th Sept 2023</p> <p>63 referrals, good outcomes</p>	<p>LCC Commissioning Services have advised an Request for Quotes process to be undertaken</p> <p>LCC can not direct award again. To be compliant with LCC procurement processes this needs to go out for</p>

		Recommendation to continue the service through RFQ process	Request for Quotation (RFQ) exercise.
5. Domestic Abuse Additional Resource for A Part Time Young Person's IDVA Worker Within the County Family Support Service (LIVING WITHOUT ABUSE)	CSD: 31/05/2022 CED:30/05/2024 1 + 1 year extension option available (30/05/2025) TCV: £81,000	CMM - 5th Sept 2023 (KG) Currently no staff covering LCC contract. 4 referrals Recommendation: Extend	Extension Report to go through the approval process
6. Domestic Abuse Additional Resource for Outreach Workers Within the Outreach Service (LIVING WITHOUT ABUSE)	CSD: 31/05/2022 CED:30/05/2024 TCV: £148,000	This direct award ends 30/05/24 with no extension options. CMM - 5th Sept 2023 146 referrals accepted Recommendation to continue the service through RFQ process	LCC Commissioning Services have advised an Request for Quotes process to be undertaken
7. Domestic Abuse Support for Male Victims (ADAM Project) - Community Based Practitioner (Women's Aid Leicestershire WALL)	CSD: 1/07/2022 CED:30/06.2024 1 + 1 extension option available to 30/06/2025 TCV: £ 145,581	CMM -11/05/2023 Referrals accepted -5 Recommendation: Extend	Extension Report to go through the approval process
8. Domestic Abuse Support for Male Victims - Helpline Worker (FREEVA)	CSD: 1/09/2022 CED:31/08/2024 1 + 1 extension option available to 31/08/2025 TCV: £ 114,816	CMM -11/04/2023 Referrals – 38 Recommendation: Extend	Extension Report to go through the approval process

9. Domestic Abuse and BAME Specialist Advisor Support (FREEVA)	CSD: 1/06/2022 CED:31/05/2024 1 + 1 extension option available to 31/05/2025 TCV: £ 114,816	CMM -11/04/2023 Referral accepted – 106 7 – repeat clients Recommendation: Extend	Extension Report to go through the approval process
10. Domestic Abuse- Specialist Therapeutic Support Young People’s Counsellor Post (FREEVA)	CSD: 01/06/2023 CED:31/05/2024 TCV: £42,982	New direct award contract letter sent out in June by DL. CMM -11/04/2023 Referrals – 9 Recommendation to continue the service through RFQ process	LCC Commissioning Services have advised an Request for Quotes process to be undertaken
11. Domestic Abuse - Additional Therapeutic Support For The Adult Counsellor Service (FREEVA)	CSD: 01/10/2023 CED:31/05/2024 TCV: £42,982	New direct award contract letter sent out in June by DL. CMM -11/04/2023 Referrals accepted – 17 Recommendation to continue the service through RFQ process	LCC Commissioning Services have advised an Request for Quotes process to be undertaken

Safe Accommodation

21. The procurement process for the Safe Accommodation is now live. The exercise has been split into 3 lots:

- Support for Black Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) victims - £85,000
- Support for Male victims - £35,000
- Generic Support (including larger and accessible units) - £130,000

22. To date 10 providers have declared an interest. Evaluation and moderation of all tenders is scheduled for early in the new year with a go live date of 3rd June 2024 has been stated; this is to ensure full and effective mobilisation of the services before any referrals are taken. The Board will receive regular updates as this process moves forward.

Communication Campaigns for commissioned services

23. 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.
24. The pregnancy and maternity campaign is now live and will run for 6 months until Summer 2024.
25. There are also currently annual Christmas campaigns running; reports and incidents of domestic abuse increase during the Christmas period.

Partnership working

26. Quarterly Domestic Abuse Network Events continue, with the next scheduled for February 2024 and the Children and Family Strategic DA Group continues to meet bi-monthly.

Recommendations

27. It is recommended that:
- (a) The Board notes the contents of the report;
 - (b) The Board approves SafeLives to undertake the review of the Needs Assessment as outlined in paragraph 7;
 - (c) The Board approves the recommendations to extend the commissioned services as outlined in Table 2 at paragraph 20.

Officer to Contact:

Gurjit Samra-Rai
Head of Community Safety
Gurjit.samra-rai@leics.gov.uk

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Ending domestic abuse

Developing and Enhancing the Response to Domestic Abuse in Leicestershire

SafeLives Proposal of Support

Melonie Senior, Senior Practice Consultant
October 2023

1. Introduction

Who we are?

We are SafeLives, the UK-wide charity dedicated to ending domestic abuse, for everyone and for good. Our experts find out what works to stop domestic abuse, and then we do everything we can to make sure families everywhere benefit.

How we work



We put the voice of survivors at the heart of everything we do.



We test innovative projects and replicate effective approaches that make more people safe and well.



We combine data, research and frontline expertise to help organisations improve how they respond to domestic abuse and to drive policy change.



We offer support, knowledge and tools to frontline workers and other professionals.

2. Context

SafeLives would be keen to provide project management leadership and coordination in carrying out a refresh of the Safe accommodation Needs Assessment previously completed in 2021.

SafeLives is a national charity dedicated to ending domestic abuse, for good. We combine data, research, and insight from services and survivors to find out what really works to make people safe. Our approach includes early intervention for victims and their children, supporting every family member, and challenging perpetrators to stop.

3. Proposal

We recognise the decision to commission expert support and to strengthen responses to domestic abuse as a significant indication of strategic prioritisation. Having previously carried out a substantial project in

Leicestershire alongside the needs assessment SafeLives are well placed in understanding the local context, strengths and challenges.

The refresh will encompass a review of current data, analysis and mapping against the previous assessment and analysis of data relating to current provision.

This proposal will be delivered by our Practice Team and an experienced SafeLives Associate.

Our Practice Team bring together a wealth of domestic abuse and multiagency experience including housing, health, social care, safeguarding and youth work. We use our knowledge, experience and research capabilities to support and advise areas in developing a whole family, system wide approach in preventing and responding to domestic abuse. We build what we do in areas by understanding in depth what is happening, through both qualitative and quantitative data; identifying opportunities and strengths; then cocreating solutions that are based on what works.

Authentic Voice

Key to the success of our work is embedding the voice of survivors and taking an innovative and evidence-based approach, founded in this understanding. Survivors and those who have experience using the services will be best placed to provide feedback and input into how these can be shaped for the better. Although we have a group of Pioneers (those with lived experience) within SafeLives, we will work with you to meaningfully engage with your local survivor voice and create mechanisms for staff with lived experience to participate.

Table 1. Proposed activities and costs

Method	Leicestershire Responsibility	SafeLives main activities	Cost
Refresh of Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate engagement of strategic and operational leads to ensure successful implementation of the project Support access to partner data Provide access to key documents, policies and procedures Facilitate fortnightly project management calls/meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of Police victim data Review of victim services data Analysis of data sets Comparison to previous data and analysis Analysis of data sets for safe accommodation Survivor engagement Review of DHR's and national Police data Analysis of case audits Written report of findings 	£4,400
Total			£4,400

Our costings above are before VAT and exclude expenses. Many of the above tasks will be completed 'off site'. As such we do not expect significant travel or accommodation expenses. **We recommend that certain activities, such as survivor interviews (if appropriate) are completed in person.** In any instance, we keep costs to a minimum and provide receipts for all expenses incurred. SafeLives standard terms and conditions will apply.

Timescale and delivery plan

We are committed to delivering this support within three months of the award of the contract.

Our track record

We have a track record in devising, replicating and scaling frontline practice change, trailblazing and building trust as we go.

For example we have trained more than 11,000 voluntary sector and public sector professionals in the last year alone, as well as supporting a network of Maracs across the country. We collect and analyse data from over 290 Maracs and provide national insights data to influence policy and practice.

We have delivered a culture change training programme to over 30 Police Forces, across England, Wales and Scotland. Our practice team have a strong history of working with areas across the UK, with a current focus on ensuring areas are working in line with the Domestic Abuse Act.

Our team

The project team responsible for delivery in Leicestershire are detailed below:

- **Nikki Kelly**, Head of Practice Nikki.kelly@safelives.org.uk

Nikki will provide strategic oversight of the project. Nikki has been a director with a successful background in the delivery of multiple and complex projects. Working across sector to create opportunities for individuals, communities, business and the public sector. Extensive experience in advocacy, regeneration, place-based education, skills and employment programmes, social justice, public-facing events, exhibits and high-impact projects. A pioneer and problem solver focused on positive change delivered through effective collaboration – a can do approach.

- **Melonie Senior**, Senior Practice Consultant Melonie.senior@safelives.org.uk

Melonie will provide operational oversight of the project. She joined SafeLives in 2020 having worked in the voluntary and statutory sector for over 30 years in a number of roles with children, young people and families. Melonie has significant experience of safeguarding vulnerable adults and children, and risk management in family contexts. Most recently she worked for Respect, piloting systems change approach in South Wales. This involved having operational oversight within a large PCC area, whilst developing an early intervention perpetrator programme and training package for non-statutory professionals.

Melonie has worked with Barnardo's and Action for Children as a Service Manager as well as within local authorities. Melonie has led on the development of an integrated domestic abuse service that supported survivors, children and perpetrators of domestic abuse. She has experience of quality assurance and all things relating to practice management. Melonie has also managed a CSE, Young Carers and Family Support service and has experience of multi-disciplinary teams working systemically with families.

- **Practice Consultant** TBC
- **SafeLives pioneer/expert by experience**

In addition to the primary project team, we will be supported by our Research and Communications team for discrete tasks.

Next Steps

We look forward to the opportunity of supporting you on this important work and hope to continue our relationship with Leicestershire. We believe that your priorities and ambition align to our strategy for a whole family approach and earlier intervention and prevention of domestic abuse. We also hope this will enable us to collaborate more effectively and achieve greater things for your people, families and communities.

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