

The DA Act 2021 places a statutory duty on Tier one local authorities to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children within safe accommodation. Part 4 of the Act introduces a new statutory duty on local authorities which places clearer accountability on local areas to ensure the needs of victims are met in a consistent way.

- Safe accommodation:** There are currently 21 safe accommodation spaces across Leicestershire. Recommended number is 70. Women's aid audit states 57% of all referrals received for refuge were rejected; the main reason for rejection was a lack of space or capacity.
- Targeted Support:** Those in LGBT+ relationships face additional barriers to reporting and accessing services. Public Health England (2015) report that disabled people experience disproportionately higher rates of domestic abuse. There is limited data/engagement from BME and GRT communities. Male victims are less likely to approach DA services that appear to be designed for females. The highest prevalence of child victim age in 2020/2021 is 0–5-year-olds (6.8%)
- Reachable services:** Leicestershire is a large rural county where victims may feel isolated due to the lack of local services within their immediate vicinity.
- Early intervention and Prevent:** Victims not knowing where to access support. Limited services available in certain areas and long waiting lists. Clients not able to relocate due to commitments or trauma. Not having funds to cover legal fees to stay in family home, therefore, staying with alleged perpetrator.
- Strong partnerships:** Gaps in data from services.. Recommendations within the MARAC review..

The Department of Levelling Up Communities and Housing (DLUCH) has allocated funding to each local authority for the delivery of the Safe Accommodation duty under the DA Act. Leicestershire County Council has been awarded £1.126 million, with each district receiving £33k.

- To commission more safe & specialist accommodation units across Leicestershire-a minimum of 20 in the 1st year.
- To commission specialist services to create a more inclusive community.
- LGBT+ worker& counsellor.
- GRT specialist post.
- BME outreach worker.
- Increase capacity in the local outreach service.
- Substance misuse worker
- Therapeutic support for both adults and children
- Male victims' helpline & Outreach support
- Training across Housing teams
- Development of inhouse training

- Increase in accommodation =more victims are being supported
- Specialist support is being provided to those who have not engaged with services previously. Future data to help understand the needs of Leicestershire better.
- To upskill housing staff- ensure victims/survivors are being supported in a trauma informed way.
- Supporting male victims reach the correct support in a safe environment. It will also allow future statistics.
- Reducing outreach waiting lists will mean service users will get the right support sooner.
- Having working groups across County will enable better communication and data which has been lacking previously.
- LGBT roles will create better engagement and therefore, victims/survivors more likely to go through with criminal justice system.
- Appropriate Housing across Leicestershire

- STRATEGIC**
- Professionals delivering TIP
 - Professionals actively involved in working together
 - Resources targeted at areas with greatest needs
- OPERATIONAL**
- Increased multi-agency collaboration and delivery
 - Partners/professionals understand and are better able to respond to individual/local needs
 - Increased efficiency and effectiveness of interventions and services
- COMMUNITIES**
- Improved understanding of and confidence in support available
 - Improved knowledge of DA and increased skills/tools
 - Community Leaders, parents and carers are better able to respond to individual/community needs
 - Increase in community-led solutions to preventing DA
 - Waiting list has reduced.

- Whole systems approach adopted and sustained through: organisational cultural change and effective multi-agency working
- Reduced waiting lists
 - Victims having more support and options to leave abusive relationships
 - Services accessible to victim
 - Victims able to access therapy in a timely manner
 - Reduction in repeat DA cases
 - Improved life outcomes across Leicestershire
 - People better informed about DA enabling friends and family to support and signpost victims (bystander approach)
 - Specialist support for children
 - Victims with protected characteristics confident to access support
 - A trauma informed response to DA

Assumptions and Risks

Assumption: Better community and partnership response to DA

Challenge/risk: Lack of collaborative working;

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