



**LEICESTERSHIRE DOMESTIC ABUSE LOCAL PARTNERSHIP
BOARD**

17th JUNE 2022

**DEPARTMENT FOR LEVELLING UP, HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES
DOMESTIC ABUSE ACT FUNDING SPEND PLAN**

Introduction

1. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 places a number of 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. In line with the Domestic Abuse Act, the County Council is also required to produce a Domestic Abuse Reduction Strategy which sets out a partnership approach to tackling Domestic Abuse (DA).
5. The duty on the County Council is to prepare, give effect to and monitor a strategy based on an assessment of the need for accommodation-based support for victims of domestic abuse in the Council's area.
6. To help deliver the Strategy, a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board must also be established, consisting of key partners with an interest in tackling domestic abuse and supporting victims and their children.
7. With the additional responsibilities handed to local authorities by the DA Act, there is funding available for 2yrs. The County Council has received £1,127,205, in year one. 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. Tier one authorities have now been informed as to the amount of grant funding

to be received for year two; Leicestershire County Council has been allocated £1,130,326.

Year 1 spend plan

8. A spend plan has been developed and will outline how the County Council funding will be allocated to the specific requirements of the new duties.

<u>Support service</u>	<u>Service provider</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Time period</u>	<u>Status</u>
Domestic Abuse Act Coordinator	Leicestershire County Council	£95,062	2 years fixed term	In post
Commissioning officer	Leicestershire County Council	£88,234	2 years fixed term	In post
Substance misuse specialist	Turning Point	£80,000	2 years	Service start date: 13.06.2022
Gypsy Roma and Traveller specialist	Leicestershire Gate	£60,000	2 years	Service start date: 01/08/2022
Specialist DA Support LGBT+ Victims	Leicester LGBT service	£56,000	2 years	Service start date: 01/07/2022
Community based support for male victims	Women's Aid Leicestershire	£97,054	2 years	Commissioning team drawing up contracts
Helpline support for male victims	Freeva	£76,544	2 years	Commissioning team drawing up contracts
BAME advisor	Freeva	£76,544	2 years	Commissioning team drawing up contracts
Counselling service for adults	Freeva	£42,982	1 year	Commissioning team drawing up contracts
Children's support service	JADA+ via Women's Aid	£123,550	1 year	Service start date: 31/05/2022
x2 Outreach workers	Living without Abuse	£148,000	2 years	PID and exceptions report completed: 01/06/2022
County Family service: x2 family workers	Living without Abuse	£148,000	2 years	PID and exceptions report completed: 01/06/2022
1 part time young person's IDVA	Living without Abuse	£54,000	2 years	PID and exceptions report completed: 01/06/2022
Contribution to MARAC manager and Administrator costs	MARAC	£18,000	2 years	Year 1 money sent: 09/03/2022

Year 2 spend plan

9. An estimated £830,000 of the DA Act funding from year 2 will go towards a Leicestershire County Council Domestic Abuse team. The aim of this team is to provide specialist, support, and assistance to victims of domestic abuse. Some of the posts within this team will include:
- Support and Intervention workers to provide practical immediate support to families to implement safety plans, coordinate relevant services, to include making sure children are in school, health involved as necessary.
 - Liaison Officers based within the Children and Family service (CFS) to work closely with schools to develop their knowledge, skills, and capacity to support children who are living with DA.
 - A team of Engagement workers who will work with the perpetrators of domestic abuse in Child Protection and Child in Need cases.
 - MARAC Coordinator who will be attending MARAC daily and who will encourage referrals into the service.
 - Personal Advisor who will work with young care leavers who are involved in intimate partner relationships which are abusive
Plans are being developed further by the Children and Families team. Full details of this project will be brought to the next meeting.
10. Safe accommodation is expected to come out of year 2 funding also. Plans are underway with the commissioning team.

Monitoring and evaluation

11. 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.

The following monitoring information has been included in all contracts.

12. The provider will complete a performance monitoring framework provided by the commissioner and submit returns on a quarterly basis. This data should also be used to internally monitor the reach and success of the project and to support continuous improvement. The performance monitoring framework will capture, at a minimum, the following data:
- Date and source of referral;
 - Whether individual engaged;
 - Key demographics (e.g. age, gender, ethnicity and residency) and indicators of risk/vulnerability (e.g. repeat victim of DV, child victim of DV);
 - Self-identified needs and goals;

- Number and type of sessions attended;
 - Number of sanctuary referrals made;
 - Onward referrals made;
 - Date case closed and reason for closure (e.g. completed or disengaged).
13. The service is underpinned by a Theory of Change and as such, it is expected to make a tangible contribution to ensuring that victims of domestic abuse are safer and securing access to safe accommodation. Through the activities listed above, we expect this service to achieve the following outcomes:
- Increase in the number of individuals and families accessing domestic abuse support;
 - Increase in feelings of safety;
 - Increase in confidence, self-esteem and wellbeing;
 - Increase in individuals and families accessing support from partner agencies (e.g. for housing, financial issues, substance misuse);
 - Reduction in the risk factors associated with being a victim of DV.

DLUHC monitoring portal

14. Tier 1 local authorities are required to submit a report to the department setting out how they have met their duty. The data monitoring form has gone live on Delta, the deadline for this is the 30th June 2022.
15. The LGA recently held virtual workshop sessions for local authorities, focusing on the delivery and implementation of the Part 4 statutory duty to deliver accommodation-based support and services. Each workshop included a presentation from the Department from Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, as well as wider presentations from specialist services.
16. DLUHC understand there will be gaps in data as local authorities are at different stages of commissioning services. Where Domestic abuse services have not yet been commissioned, it is important to make clear any commitments that have been made to these services.
17. At present, there is no formal agreement for future funding however, it was inferred at one of the latest LGA Workshops that there would be additional funding.

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