



**LEICESTERSHIRE DOMESTIC ABUSE LOCAL PARTNERSHIP
BOARD**

9th DECEMBER 2022

STATUS OF CONTRACTS UPDATE

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. 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. Leicestershire County Council has been awarded £1.126 million, with each district receiving £33k for year one. In year two Leicestershire County Council has been allocated £1,130,326 and each district has received approximately £33,000.
5. 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.
6. 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.

7. 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.
8. 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.
 9. 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.
 10. 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 sharleen.sidhar@leics.gov.uk	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	1 year	Service start date: 01/06/2022
Counselling service for young people claire@freeva.org.uk	Freeva	1 year	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

11. **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.
12. **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.
13. **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.
14. **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.
15. **FREEVA Contracts**
 - I. **Male helpline worker:** The service will provide specialist confidential helpline support to male victims and survivors of domestic abuse.
 - II. **BAME advisor:** The service will provide specialist support for those individuals who are subject to domestic abuse and are from BAME communities. The aim of the service is to provide emotional and practical community-based support to service users.
 - III. **Adult Counsellor:** The service will provide specialist counselling 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. This support will be provided by a counsellor based within FREEVA's existing Young People's Project for a period of 1 year and the proposal is to provide short term counselling to provide support to 80 children over a 12 month period.

16. **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.

17. **Living without abuse (LWA) contracts**

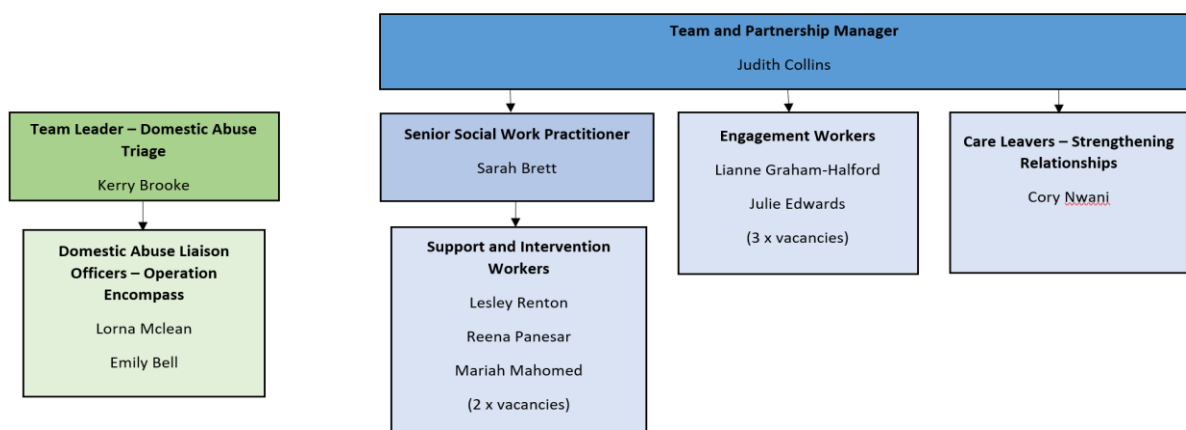
- I. Two community-based outreach workers: The contract will provide additional funding within the Outreach Service existing contract, to enable LWA to deliver Outreach support and Group Programme delivery to service users of domestic abuse. This will allow for x2 additional Outreach Workers to support 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 IDVA service for young people, focusing on high/very high-risk victims of domestic abuse
- III. County family service: 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.

18. The Domestic abuse Act Coordinator has been in regular contact with providers. All contracts have been signed and workers are now in post.

Year 2 allocations

19. 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.

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



20. There are currently five vacancies across two service areas (Support and Intervention Workers and Engagement Workers). The posts are being advertised with a closing date of 4th December and interviews are scheduled to take place on 15th December. To date, there appears to have been a lot of interest in the job adverts and the team manager and senior practitioner have had informal discussions with around fourteen people who have stated their intention to apply for one or both of the job roles.

21. The remainder of year two funding will go towards safe accommodation. A tender exercise is currently being worked on with an estimated finish time of 6 months. Types of accommodation we expect to commission will include:

- Specialist accommodation to support victims with relevant protected characteristics and/or complex needs such as specialist refuges for BAME and other ethnic minorities;
- Family-sized/flexible units (inc. suitable for older children particularly boys);
- Units for families with pets;
- Accessible accommodation for older victims/victims with disabilities.

More details about this tender exercise will be shared at the next meeting.

Comms for newly commissioned services

22. All providers are currently working on communications for new services. Internally, plans are being developed with the communications team to ensure all departments within county council are aware of new services. Plans are to circulate information via the following streams:

- Yammer posts listing the current services/contractors;
- CFS newsletter;
- Director's Update;
- Sharing/retweeting providers' posts;
- Managers' Digest – ask managers to cascade service information to their teams.

Partnership working

23. To ensure there is a whole systems approach, a Domestic abuse networking event has been organised. This is a great opportunity for providers to come together to discuss how services will work together to achieve the best outcome for victims and survivors of domestic abuse. The first event took place on 28th November 2022 at county hall. Plans are for future events to take place every quarter.

Monitoring and evaluation

24. 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.
25. The Domestic Abuse Act Providers will be monitored against a set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). The Council is keen to work with providers to develop a set of KPI's. These will be discussed and agreed at collaboration meetings.
26. Providers will be expected to evidence how they deliver and monitor outcome-based quality provision within the annual contract management meetings.
27. 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.
28. All Providers under the Domestic Abuse Act must provide quarterly Key Performance Indicator and Monitoring Information to demonstrate the outcomes achieved for the victims/ survivors of Domestic Abuse and progress in meeting outcomes.
29. 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.

DLUHC updates

30. Tier 1 local authorities are required to submit an annual report to the department setting out how they have met their duty. The first report was submitted on the 30th June 2022 through an online portal.
31. Department for levelling up, housing and communities have announced local Authorities will receive new burdens funding in 2023/24 and 2024/25 accompanied by a Grant Determination letter and a memorandum of understanding (MoU).

Officer to Contact:

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