



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

**15<sup>th</sup> 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:

<b><u>Support service</u></b>	<b><u>Service provider</u></b>	<b><u>Time period</u></b>	<b><u>Contract start dates/status</u></b>
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 <a href="mailto:caroline.gadsby@turning-point.co.uk">caroline.gadsby@turning-point.co.uk</a>	Turning Point	2 years	Service start date: 13.06.2022
Gypsy Roma and Traveller specialist <a href="mailto:jduffy.leicestershiregate@gmail.com">jduffy.leicestershiregate@gmail.com</a>	Leicestershire Gate	2 years	Service start date: 01/08/2022
Specialist DA Support LGBT+ Victims <a href="mailto:zoe@leicesterlgbtcentre.org">zoe@leicesterlgbtcentre.org</a>	Leicester LGBT service	2 years	Service start date: 01/07/2022
Community based support for male victims (Adam Project) <a href="mailto:Sophie.McGoff@wallaction.org.uk">Sophie.McGoff@wallaction.org.uk</a>	Women's Aid Leicestershire	2 years	Service start date: 01/07/2022
Helpline support for male victims <a href="mailto:claire@freeva.org.uk">claire@freeva.org.uk</a>	Freeva	2 years	Service start date: 01/09/2022

BAME advisor <a href="mailto:claire@freeva.org.uk">claire@freeva.org.uk</a>	Freeva	2 years	Service start date: 01/06/2022
Counselling service for adults <a href="mailto:claire@freeva.org.uk">claire@freeva.org.uk</a>	Freeva	2 years	Service start date: 01/06/2022
Counselling service for young people <a href="mailto:claire@freeva.org.uk">claire@freeva.org.uk</a>	Freeva	1.5 years	Service start date: 01/10/22
Children's support service <a href="mailto:Sophie.McGoff@wallaction.org.uk">Sophie.McGoff@wallaction.org.uk</a>	JADA+ via Women's Aid	1 year	Service start date: 31/05/2022
x2 Outreach workers <a href="mailto:debbie@lwa.org.uk">debbie@lwa.org.uk</a>	Living without Abuse	2 years	Service start date: 31/05/2022
County Family service: x2 family workers <a href="mailto:debbie@lwa.org.uk">debbie@lwa.org.uk</a>	Living without Abuse	2 years	Service start date: 31/05/2022
part time young person's IDVA <a href="mailto:debbie@lwa.org.uk">debbie@lwa.org.uk</a>	Living without Abuse	2 years	Service start date: 31/05/2022
Contribution to MARAC manager and Administrator costs <a href="mailto:lucy.batchelor@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk">lucy.batchelor@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk</a>	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>&lt;1 month – 30</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b> <b>Extend</b></p>	
<p><b>2. Specialist Domestic Abuse Support for Victims from Gypsy / Roma / Traveller (GRT) Communities.</b>  (Leicestershire GATE)</p>	<p>CSD: 01/08/2022 CED: 31/07/2024 1 + 1 year extension option available (31/07/2025)</p> <p>TCV: £90,000</p>	<p>CMM -9<sup>th</sup> October 2023</p> <p>Service going well, Referrals 27, 19 – employment education needs 21 -finance 13 – housing 22 MH <b>Recommendation:</b> <b>Extend</b></p>	<p>Extension Report to go through the approval process</p>
<p><b>3. Domestic Abuse Support For LGBTQ+ Victims Specialist Service</b>  (LGBT+ centre)</p>	<p>CSD: 01/07/2022 CED:30/06/2024 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 <b>Recommendation:</b> <b>Extend</b></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><b>4. Domestic Abuse Additional Resource for Family Support Workers Within the County Family Service</b>  (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>

		<a href="#">Recommendation to continue the service through RFQ process</a>	Request for Quotation (RFQ) exercise.
<b>5. Domestic Abuse Additional Resource for A Part Time Young Person's IDVA Worker Within the County Family Support Service</b>  <b>(LIVING WITHOUT ABUSE)</b>	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 <a href="#">Recommendation: Extend</a>	Extension Report to go through the approval process
<b>6. Domestic Abuse Additional Resource for Outreach Workers Within the Outreach Service</b>  <b>(LIVING WITHOUT ABUSE)</b>	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 <a href="#">Recommendation to continue the service through RFQ process</a>	LCC Commissioning Services have advised an Request for Quotes process to be undertaken
<b>7. Domestic Abuse Support for Male Victims (ADAM Project) - Community Based Practitioner</b>  <b>(Women's Aid Leicestershire WALL)</b>	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  <a href="#">Recommendation: Extend</a>	Extension Report to go through the approval process
<b>8. Domestic Abuse Support for Male Victims - Helpline Worker</b>  <b>(FREEVA)</b>	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  <a href="#">Recommendation: Extend</a>	Extension Report to go through the approval process

<b>9. Domestic Abuse and BAME Specialist Advisor Support</b>  (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 <b>Recommendation: Extend</b>	Extension Report to go through the approval process
<b>10. Domestic Abuse-Specialist Therapeutic Support Young People’s Counsellor Post</b>  (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  <b>Recommendation to continue the service through RFQ process</b>	LCC Commissioning Services have advised an Request for Quotes process to be undertaken
<b>11. Domestic Abuse - Additional Therapeutic Support For The Adult Counsellor Service</b>  (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 <b>Recommendation to continue the service through RFQ process</b>	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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:**

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