



Ending domestic abuse

Developing and Enhancing the Response to Domestic Abuse in Leicestershire

SafeLives Proposal of Support

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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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