



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

28th JUNE 2024

LEICESTERSHIRE PROJECTS AND COMMISSIONING UPDATE

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

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 will be beneficial to understand what impact this has had and what further the Partnership should consider. Furthermore, the legislation requires for regular reviews of the Needs Assessment to be carried out.
7. Safe Lives are currently undertaking a review of the Needs Assessment at a cost of £4,400. The review will also inform the DA Reduction Strategy and Action Plan going forward. 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:

<u>Support service</u>	<u>Service provider</u>	<u>Time period</u>	<u>Contract start dates/status</u>
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 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	2 years	Service start date: 01/06/2022
Counselling service for young people claire@freeva.org.uk	Freeva	1.5 years	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

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 year 3 commissioned services following approval from the Board.

Contract & Provider	Contract Details
1. Specialist Domestic Abuse Substance Misuse Support for Victims (Turning Point)	1 + 1 year extension option available (12/06/2025) Total Contract Value (TCV): £124,864
2. Specialist Domestic Abuse Support for Victims from Gypsy / Roma / Traveller (GRT) Communities.	1 + 1 year extension option available (31/07/2025) TCV: £90,000

(Leicestershire GATE)	
3. Domestic Abuse Support For LGBTQ+ Victims Specialist Service (LGBT+ centre)	1 + 1 year extension option available (30/06/2025) TCV: £84,000
4. Domestic Abuse Additional Resource for Family Support Workers Within the County Family Service (LIVING WITHOUT ABUSE)	TCV: £148,000
5. Domestic Abuse Additional Resource for A Part Time Young Person's IDVA Worker Within the County Family Support Service (LIVING WITHOUT ABUSE)	1 + 1 year extension option available (30/05/2025) TCV: £81,000
6. Domestic Abuse Additional Resource for Outreach Workers Within the Outreach Service (LIVING WITHOUT ABUSE)	TCV: £148,000
7. Domestic Abuse Support for Male Victims (ADAM Project) - Community Based Practitioner (Women's Aid Leicestershire WALL)	1 + 1 extension option available to 30/06/2025 TCV: £ 145,581
8. Domestic Abuse Support for Male Victims - Helpline Worker (FREEVA)	1 + 1 extension option available to 31/08/2025 TCV: £ 114,816
9. Domestic Abuse and BAME Specialist Advisor Support (FREEVA)	1 + 1 extension option available to 31/05/2025 TCV: £ 114,816

10. Domestic Abuse- Specialist Therapeutic Support Young People's Counsellor Post (FREEVA)	TCV: £42,982
11. Domestic Abuse - Additional Therapeutic Support For The Adult Counsellor Service (FREEVA)	TCV: £42,982

Safe Accommodation

21. The procurement process for the Safe Accommodation is now closed. The exercise was 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. Panahghar have been awarded lot one – support for BAME victims and Women's Aid (WALL) have been awarded lot 3 – generic support. No organisation put forward any interest for lot 2 – support for male victims, however the Finance Board at Leicestershire County Council have approved a direct award to WALL who already support male victims through the Adam Project.

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.

Partnership working

24. 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

25. It is recommended that:
- (a) The Board notes the contents of the report;

(b) The Board supports SafeLives to undertake the review of the Needs Assessment as outlined in paragraph 7.

Officer to Contact:

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