



## **Community Safety Partnership (CSP) – Domestic Abuse Partnership Board**

### **Funding Application - Support for Victims of Domestic Abuse and their children in safe accommodation 2023/2024**

Wokingham Borough Council has received guidance from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), formerly the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) of what constitutes an appropriate use of Part 4 Domestic Abuse Act 2021 'new duties' funding. An overview is provided at the end of this document.

Applications for funding 2023 / 24 will be considered by members of the Wokingham Domestic Abuse Partnership Board. Anyone applying, or who is from the organisation submitting the application, will be asked to step out of the meeting for the duration of the discussion and not be eligible for a vote on the outcome of the application. A majority of 2/3rds of the meeting attendees is needed to approve an application. In order to expediate any urgent applications between meeting dates, the Partnership Board of 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021 gave delegated powers to a subgroup of members to enable them to determine request outcomes.

All successful applicants will be required to provide an update report to the Partnership Board on a quarterly basis. An annual review of funding decisions will be made to the DLUHC (formerly MHCLG)

#### **1. Applicant Information**

Question	Answer
Organisation name:	
Organisation address and postcode:	
Website:	
How would you best describe your organisation (eg trading status):	
Company registration number (if applicable)	
Charity registration number (if applicable)	
Are you part of a larger organisation or have an umbrella group? (If yes, please provide details and nature of relationship)	
Please include with your application a copy of your organisation's policy on:	

1. Information Sharing including GDPR compliance (if applicable) 2. Safeguarding  If you do not have any of these policies, please provide below your organisation's management processes covering the areas listed above.	
Have you previously received funding from Wokingham Community Safety Partnership?  If yes, please indicate the total amount and when this was received.	

## 2. Project Information

Please provide a title for your project or funding request
Please detail which of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, Part 4 duties 'acceptable uses of funding' categories this application relates to (see below for list)
Please provide a detailed overview of what the funding requested will be used for, including project aims, delivery means, objectives and timeframe for delivery. Word count = maximum 400
Please provide evidence for the need for your project
Please explain how you intend to measure and assess the project outcomes and impact as outlined above. (An end of project report will be required along with short 3 monthly updates)
If your application is for ongoing funding for a project previously funded via this grant stream, please detail outcomes of the project over the past funding period.
Monitoring – Immediate Outcomes

Activity (What will you do)	Outcome (what will change)	Measures (how will change be evidenced)

Monitoring – Mid to Long term Outcomes

Activity (what will you do)	Outcome / Impact (what will change)	Measures (how will you know it's working)

Will your project be inclusive of everyone?  
If there are groups which will be excluded from accessing your project / support, please detail below the exclusion and rationale for the exclusion.

What is the estimated number of people who will benefit from your project directly?

What is the estimated number of people who will benefit from your project indirectly?

Please provide an item breakdown and description of all costs to carry out this project

Have you secured any other sources of funding for this project? (Including any of your own funding committed) Please provide details

Please detail what relevant contingencies you have in place to ensure the project / activity will be delivered in full

Total amount of funding requested:

I declare that to the best of my knowledge the answers submitted, and information contained in this document are correct and accurate.

I declare that, upon request and without delay I will provide the certificates or documentary evidence referred to in this document.

I understand that the information will be used in the selection process to assess whether my request for funding is approved.

I understand that the authority may reject this submission in its entirety if there is a failure to answer all the relevant questions fully, or if false/misleading information or content is provided in any section.

I agree to declare any unspent funding as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 and return the unspent element on request.

I am aware of the consequences of serious misrepresentation.

Name of the person completing the application:	
Name of the organisation:	
Role in the organisation:	
Phone number:	
E-mail address:	
Postal address:	
Signature (electronic is acceptable):	
Date:	

Please send the completed application form to [rowena.perry@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:rowena.perry@wokingham.gov.uk) a minimum of 10 working days before the next Domestic Abuse Partnership Board meeting:  
Meeting dates for 2023: 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023; 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023; 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023; 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

Funding Decision	Amount Awarded (if applicable)	Decision date

## FUNDING CRITERIA

The 'Delivery of support to victims of domestic abuse in domestic abuse safe accommodation services' statutory guidance for local authorities provides guidance on the requirements of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, Part 4 and details what support falls within this duty. The full document can be accessed at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-support-within-safe-accommodation/delivery-of-support-to-victims-of-domestic-abuse-in-domestic-abuse-safe-accommodation-services> but an overview is provided below for ease.

### Link to Local Authority Needs Assessment and Strategy

The Local Authority is required to give effect to the Domestic Abuse strategy through commissioning / de-commissioning decisions. As a result, applications should reflect the strategy aims and needs identified through the Needs Assessment process (copy available upon request).

### Acceptable uses of funding:

The guidance states 'Domestic abuse support provided through the exercise of the functions in Part 4 of the 2021 Act includes the expert help provided to victims by the specialist staff in domestic abuse safe accommodation support services. We recognise that some support is directly provided by staff on site (eg within refuges), whereas other support will be provided to victims through a support worker visiting them, including in their own homes in the case of a sanctuary scheme. However, in all cases support is provided to victims who reside in relevant safe accommodation'.

Domestic abuse support within relevant safe accommodation is defined in statutory guidance as:

- **Overall management of services within relevant safe accommodation** – including capacity building, support and supervision of staff, payroll, financial and day to day management of services and maintaining relationships with the local authority (such functions will often be undertaken by a service manager).
- **Support with the day-to-day running of the service**, for example scheduling times for counselling sessions, group activities (such functions may often be undertaken by administrative or office staff)
- **Advocacy support** – development of personal safety plans, liaison with other services (for example, GPs and social workers, welfare benefit providers).
- **Domestic abuse prevention advice** – support to assist victims to recognise the signs of abusive relationships, to help them remain safe (including online), and to prevent re-victimisation.
- **Specialist support for victims:**
  - **Designed specifically for victims with relevant protected characteristics** (including ‘by and for’), such as faith services, translators and interpreters, immigration advice, interpreters for victims identifying as deaf and / or hard of hearing, and dedicated support for LGBTQ+ victims [not limited to].
  - **Designed specifically for victims with additional and / or complex needs** such as, mental health advice and support, drug and alcohol advice and support [not limited to], including sign posting accordingly.
- **Children’s support** – including play therapy, child advocacy or a specialist children worker (for example, a young people’s violence advisor, IDVA or outreach worker specialised in working with children)
- **Housing-related support** – providing housing-related advice and support, for example, securing a permanent home, rights to existing accommodation and advice on how to live safely and independently.
- **Advice service** – including financial and legal support, including accessing benefits, support into work and establishing independent financial arrangements; and,
- **Counselling and therapy** (including group support) for both adults and children, including emotional support.

This list of support is not an exhaustive list and other relevant support services can be put in place (based on victims’ needs).

### **‘Relevant Accommodation’ (also referred to as ‘safe accommodation’) is specified as:**

**Refuge accommodation** – a refuge offers single gender or single sex accommodation and domestic abuse support which is tied to that accommodation. The address will not be publicly available. Victims, including their children, will have access to a planned programme of therapeutic and practical support from staff. Accommodation may be in shared or self-contained housing, but in both cases the service will enable peer support from other refuge residents.

- **Specialist safe accommodation**– specialist safe accommodation offering single gender or single sex accommodation, alongside dedicated domestic abuse support which is tailored to also support those who share particular protected characteristic(s) and / or who share one or more vulnerabilities requiring additional support. Accommodation may be in shared or self-contained housing, and the address will not be publicly available. This includes ‘By and For’ services where victims are able to see themselves reflected in the staffing, management and governance structures. By and For services are designed and led by those that share the same protected characteristic(s) as the victims they serve. For example, a specialist domestic abuse organisation that is led by Black and minoritised women and children, for Black and minoritised women and children.
- **Dispersed accommodation:** i. Safe (secure and dedicated to supporting victims of domestic abuse), self-contained accommodation with a similar level of specialist domestic abuse support as provided within a refuge but which may be more suitable for victims who are unable to stay in a refuge with

communal spaces, and / or where older teenage sons cannot be accommodated in a women only refuge, for example. Where two or more units share any part of the accommodation, including shared hallways or access routes, provision should be single gender or single sex.

ii. Safe (secure and dedicated to supporting victims of domestic abuse), self-contained 'semi-independent' accommodation which is not within a refuge but with support for victims who may not require the intensive support offered through refuge, but are still at risk of abuse from their perpetrator/s. Where two or more units share any part of the accommodation, including shared hallways or access routes, provision should be single gender or single sex.

- **Sanctuary Schemes** properties with local authority or private registered providers of social housing installed Sanctuary Schemes which provide enhanced physical security measures to a home or the perimeter of the home. A Sanctuary Scheme is a survivor centred initiative which aims to make it possible for victims of domestic abuse to remain in their own homes, where it is safe for them to do so, where it is their choice, and where the perpetrator does not live in the accommodation. This is done by providing additional security – 'installing a sanctuary' – to the victims' property or perimeter. The [Whole Housing Approach Toolkit on Sanctuary Schemes](#) provides further information.

- **Second stage accommodation** – accommodation temporarily provided to victims, including their children, who are moving on from other forms of relevant accommodation and / or who no longer need the intensive level of support provided in refuge, but would still benefit from a lower level of domestic abuse specific support for a period before they move to fully independent and settled accommodation. Where second stage accommodation is in shared housing it should be single gender or single sex. There is no expectation that every victim will require this. Many victims are ready to move straight to a settled new home from refuge. However, second stage accommodation (sometimes known as 'move on') may be helpful in some cases.

**Other forms of domestic abuse emergency accommodation** – a safe place (single gendered or single sex, secure and dedicated to supporting victims of domestic abuse) with domestic abuse support tied to the accommodation to enable victims to make informed decisions when leaving a perpetrator and seeking safe accommodation. For example, short term (e.g., 2-3 weeks) accommodation provided victims with the space and safety to consider and make informed decisions about the options available to them.

Some domestic abuse safe accommodation services may fall under more than one of the above descriptions.

## Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Quality Standards

### 1. Safety, Security and Dignity

- Victims can access crisis support at any time and receive a timely response.
- On referral, services rigorously assess and agree with the victim whether the service's geographical location can offer a victim safety. Victims are not expected to accept an offer of support in safe accommodation which does not provide a safe location.
- Victim safety is prioritised throughout. Victims should not be expected to stay if a service location is no longer safe for them (e.g. found by their perpetrator), but should be given urgent assistance to move.
- Victims are assessed and offered trauma informed services on the basis of their individual need for safety and support.
- Measures are in place to ensure service users are safe from being found by their perpetrator.
- Physical buildings to be well maintained, safe and meet the relevant building standards.
- Provision is located in single gender or single sex services.
- Victims' duration of support to be based on needs and not pre-set timescales.

## **2. Rights and access**

- Victims are believed and listened to and service interventions are respectful of their rights to self-determination.
- Victims with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 can access dedicated specialist services addressing their needs (for example accessibility for disabled victims)
- Resources are allocated to addressing barriers to access, including supporting service users with limited English proficiency, and those with insecure immigration status.
- Services (including use of technology and virtual support) are informed by victims' choice and delivered in a way that meet the needs and preferences of the victim group and /or individual and in a range of formats which are accessible and appropriate

## **3. Health and wellbeing – trauma informed**

- Victims are supported to access services that meet their physical, mental, and sexual health needs.
  - Victims are supported to access individual counselling or group work to build their confidence and resources.
  - The organisation should work in partnership with and have appropriate referral pathways to a range of other services including the sexual violence sector, drugs, alcohol/mental health services.
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- The safety, wellbeing and motivation of staff teams is attended to ensuring safe working practices that protect the physical safety and mental wellbeing of staff.

## **4. Stability, resilience, and autonomy**

- Victims are supported to take charge of decision-making processes in their own lives.
- Victims are encouraged to identify goals and access education, training, and employment to maximise their stability and independence.
- Victims have access to resettlement and follow-up services with exit strategies tailored to individual need. This should include access to ongoing specialist support in the community as part of resettlement, including through partnerships and appropriate referral pathways.

## **5. Children and young people**

- The safety and wellbeing of children and young people is addressed in risk assessment and support planning.
- Children are able to access support to understand their experiences and build their resilience and confidence.
- Support is provided to parents to develop their parenting resources and maintain their relationships with their children.
- Services are responsive to the needs and views of children and young people.

## **6. Prevention & repeat victimisation reduction**

- Safety plan/advice includes advice and interventions to support victims in reducing the risk of returning to an abusive relationship.
- Children and young people are better informed and educated around consent, healthy relationships, gender inequality and violence against women and girls (which includes men and boys).

- The service provider assists development of wider training and awareness-raising activities with other professionals and within the local community, as requested, and as capacity allows.

**Updated April 2023**