

# Equality Impact Assessment

## Introductory Information

### Budget/Project name

Domestic Abuse safe accommodation and support services re-commissioning

### Proposal type

- Budget  
 Project

Reference number **975**

### Decision Type

- Cabinet  
 Cabinet Committee (e.g. Cabinet Highways Committee)  
 Leader  
 Individual Cabinet Member  
 Executive Director/Director  
 Officer Decisions (Non-Key)  
 Council (e.g. Budget and Housing Revenue Account)  
 Regulatory Committees (e.g. Licensing Committee)

### Lead Cabinet Member

Cllr George Lindars-Hammond

### Entered on Q Tier

- Yes  No

### Year(s)

<input type="radio"/> 14/15	<input type="radio"/> 15/16	<input type="radio"/> 16/17	<input type="radio"/> 17/18	<input type="radio"/> 18/19	<input type="radio"/> 19/20	<input type="radio"/> 20/21	<input type="radio"/> 21/22
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### EIA date

15/10/2021

### EIA Lead

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Adele Robinson     | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Ed Sexton |
| <input type="radio"/> Annemarie Johnston | <input type="radio"/> Louise Nunn          |
| <input type="radio"/> Bashir Khan        | <input type="radio"/> Michael Bowles       |
| <input type="radio"/> Beth Storm         | <input type="radio"/> Michelle Hawley      |
| <input type="radio"/> Diane Owens        | <input type="radio"/> Rosie May            |

### Person filling in this EIA form

Jackie Ainsworth

### Lead officer

Sam Martin

### Lead Corporate Plan priority

<input type="radio"/> An In-Touch Organisation	<input type="radio"/> Strong Economy	<input type="radio"/> Thriving Neighbourhoods and Communities	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Better Health and Wellbeing	<input type="radio"/> Tackling Inequalities
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## Portfolio, Service and Team

### Cross-Portfolio

- Yes       No

### Portfolio

Is the EIA joint with another organisation (eg NHS)?

- Yes       No

## Brief aim(s) of the proposal and the outcome(s) you want to achieve

To re-commission Domestic Abuse safe accommodation and support services

## Impact

Under the [Public Sector Equality Duty](#) we have to pay due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- advance equality of opportunity
- foster good relations

More information is available on the [Council website](#) including the [Community Knowledge Profiles](#).

Note the EIA should describe impact before any action/mitigation. If there are both negatives and positives, please outline these – positives will be part of any mitigation. The action plan should detail any mitigation.

### Overview

#### Briefly describe how the proposal helps to meet the Public Sector Duty outlined above

- On the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021, the Domestic Abuse Act was enacted and new duties were placed on local authorities to

- *‘Assess or make arrangements for the assessment of, the need for, accommodation-based support in its area,*
- *Prepare and publish a strategy for the provision of such support in its area, and*
- *Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy’*

Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (England). Section 57

and as part of this Act to provide accommodation-based support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation.

The Domestic Abuse Act has a broad definition of safe accommodation in recognition of the diversity of housing in which victims/survivors and their children may live. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), in the Domestic Abuse Act and Draft Statutory Guidance<sup>5</sup>, defined supported accommodation to include:

- refuge accommodation;
- specialist safe accommodation;
- dispersed accommodation;
- sanctuary schemes (target hardening equipment to enable people to stay safe in their own homes)
- and move-on or second stage accommodation.

The Statutory Guidance has defined 'support' as, advocacy, domestic abuse prevention advice, specialist support for victims/survivors (including those with relevant protected characteristics and additional and/or complex needs), children's support, housing related support, financial, employment and benefits advice and counselling and therapy for both victims/survivors and their children.

The Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment 2021 uses the Crime Survey of England and Wales (CSEW) which provides a national estimate of the prevalence of domestic abuse. We can use these findings to apply them to the Sheffield population of 16-74 year olds to estimate the prevalence of domestic abuse in Sheffield. We estimate that in the last year, there were almost 20,000 people who experienced domestic abuse, which amounts to almost 15,784 women and 3914 men. We also estimate that there were 988 victims/survivors of domestic abuse in Sheffield who did not leave their abuser because they believed they had nowhere to go and that there was not enough support for them. The anticipation is that domestic abuse will increase in line with population growth.

Current provision in Sheffield comprises:

- refuge provision of 36 self-contained units of various sizes, plus one room for emergency provision. Twenty of the units are based in a purpose-built, 'core' refuge (plus a unit for emergency access with direct out of hours access) and a minimum of 16 sourced by the service provider. There are a number of communal facilities and indoor/outdoor play areas at each refuge.
- Safe Zones dispersed accommodation of 25 units, of 1 2 and 3 bedroom properties in Sheffield with specialist domestic abuse support offered by IDAS and properties provided by a Registered Housing Provider; this provision is for all victims of abuse but the original commissioning intentions were that priority should be given to male victims and those for whom refuge accommodation may be unsuitable.

Accommodation is allocated via the Housing Support Pathway, administered by the Council's Housing Solutions team.

This proposal is re-commission a minimum of 37 units of specialist domestic abuse refuge and a minimum of 25 units of Safe Zones accommodation and support.

It is expected that the demographics of the clients will be broadly similar to those who have used or who are currently in the service; however, we anticipate that the number of GBQ+ victims/survivors accessing safe accommodation will increase. As now, the recommissioned service will link into the Homeless Strategy and the Domestic Abuse Co-ordination Team's (DACT's) Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy 2018-2022 .

If agreed, the proposal will ensure the provision of refuge accommodation in the city for the next three years from 1 October 2022, with the potential to extend for a further two years.

## Impacts

### Proposal has an impact on

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transgender
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Age	<input type="checkbox"/> Carers
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Voluntary/Community & Faith Sectors
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy/Maternity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cohesion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Race	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partners
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Belief	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Poverty & Financial Inclusion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sex	<input type="checkbox"/> Armed Forces
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Give details in sections below.

## Health

**Does the Proposal have a significant impact on health and well-being (including effects on the wider determinants of health)?**

Yes       No      *if Yes, complete section below*

### Staff

Yes       No

### Impact

Positive       Neutral       Negative

### Level

None       Low       Medium       High

### Details of impact

### Customers

Yes       No

### Impact

Positive       Neutral       Negative

### Level

None       Low       Medium       High

### Details of impact

People often associate Domestic Abuse with physical assault – a black eye, bruises, pulled hair, up to serious injuries - but there is increasing recognition that emotional abuse and controlling behaviour are the daily realities of living with domestic abuse. Survivors describe this as making them feel they are 'walking on eggshells'. It happens alongside physical attacks and can go on for years and can be even more damaging to physical and mental health and wellbeing, especially living with the fear of what might happen if the abuser isn't obeyed. Sexual abuse and rape also occur as part of the domestic abuse in a relationship, or the perpetrator can be an acquaintance – a colleague, a friend, a neighbour – but it is rare that they are complete strangers. For many adults getting support, the abuse may have taken place when they were children. Whether the perpetrator is well known to the victim or not, the violation, shame and stigma will have a terrible impact on health and wellbeing, and feeling able to seek support for the after effects may be a process that takes many months or years. Culturally harmful practices such as forced marriages, so called 'honour' based violence, trafficking, female genital mutilation, breast flattening also have a major effect on their victims.

By re-commissioning these services, it will continue to allow people respite from the abusive situation, allowing any physical wounds to heal. Mental and emotional trauma, particularly from Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) which many of the women suffer from take far longer to heal and may never do so at all, but women may be supported to be better able to manage the feelings that arise from the trauma. The safe accommodation provides a psychologically informed environment that enables people to talk about what has happened to them in a safe, comfortable space with others, who will not judge them. Assisting them to access appropriate services, such as those for mental health or substance misuse, it provides people with opportunities to look at what led to the abusive relationship, how to avoid those situations again and how to keep themselves safe, starting and helping with the healing

process. This has a fundamental impact on the individuals, but also on any children and the wider family. The support given to children helps them to understand what is happening and why and to break the cycle of abuse that can continue from generation to generation. Even if a person returns to the perpetrator, the services provide them with the knowledge and comfort that there are services, support and help available when they need it.

**Comprehensive Health Impact Assessment being completed**

Yes       No

*Please attach health impact assessment as a supporting document below.*

**Public Health Leads has signed off the health impact(s) of this EIA**

Yes       No

**Health Lead**

## Age

### Staff

Yes  No

### Impact

Positive  Neutral  Negative

### Level

None  Low  Medium  High

### Details of impact

### Customers

Yes  No

### Impact

Positive  Neutral  Negative

### Level

None  Low  Medium  High

### Details of impact

The CSEW found that prevalence of domestic abuse in the last year was highest among the younger age groups, with 14% of females aged 16-19 reporting experiencing domestic abuse. However, Sheffield has a specific pathway with Children's Social care relating to 16 and 17 year olds. This data suggests many of the people accessing accommodation are likely to be younger and either in need of single properties or have small children and need family units.

Although this is a clear indication that accommodation and support needs be suitable for younger people it does also tell us that there are barriers for those aged over 60 to both reporting domestic abuse, accessing safe accommodation and benefiting from support.

There is a lack of data nationally on the prevalence of domestic abuse in older adults and a risk that this group may be 'hidden' from services and their needs overlooked in Sheffield. In Sheffield in 2020, the average age of a refuge resident was 34, the youngest aged 20 and the oldest aged 64. In Safe Zones, the average age was 32, the youngest being 20 and the oldest 52.

The proposed specifications for the safe accommodation ensure that the provider/s take a whole household approach, so the needs of the children are also met through various means, from linking them into Council and other agency provision relevant for their needs, to appropriate age activity provision within the refuge, which under the new contract will include some weekend provision. Sessional activities will also provide opportunities for the children to be looked after while the service user engages with support. There will be more limited provision in Safe Zones because the accommodation is dispersed but families will be signposted to relevant groups/activities. As under the current contracts, the provider/s will be required to have had relevant training.

## Disability

### Staff

Yes  No

### Impact

Positive  Neutral  Negative

### Level

None  Low  Medium  High

## Details of impact

### Customers

Yes     No

### Impact

Positive     Neutral     Negative

### Level

None     Low     Medium     High

## Details of impact

The 2019/20 CSEW estimates that 14.7% of disabled women and 7.5% disabled men have been a victim/survivor of domestic abuse in the last year, rates are more than twice as high as rates amongst people who are not disabled<sup>1</sup>.

In Sheffield out of 54 respondents to a survey 18.5% considered themselves to be a disabled person with the largest proportion of these stating that they had mental ill health (e.g. depression, bipolar disorders, schizophrenia)

Two units in the 'core' refuge building are designed to wheelchair standard and the development allows for wheelchair accessibility in accordance with planning and design guidelines. The 'core' refuge is located in a part of the city where wheelchair and buggy users experience relatively fewer barriers in accessing the locality. Wheelchair accessibility in accommodation units outside the 'core' refuge will be evaluated as part of the tender process. but more work needs to be done to understand if this is sufficient to meet demand. And also whether people who are disabled in other ways have enough support to access safe accommodation e.g. re. Visual or hearing impairment. Safe Zones accommodation is not currently accessible therefore there are gaps in relation to accessibility for the cohort of male GBT+ victims/survivors that may need to use this provision. We will be addressing this through the recommissioning of the safe accommodation.

There is a commissioned Psychology Service which works with clients in the refuge and Safe Zones to support those with mental ill health, by offering a short period of appropriate therapy. This will continue to be offered to those in re-commissioned units.

We recognise that there is much about disability and domestic abuse that we don't fully understand and therefore, a key priority will be to improve our data collection and analysis and undertake further consultation with disabled victims/survivors to ensure that we are prioritising meeting the needs of our disabled population.

## Pregnancy/Maternity

### Staff

Yes     No

### Impact

Positive     Neutral     Negative

### Level

None     Low     Medium     High

<sup>1</sup> The definition of disability used in the CSEW is consistent with the core definition of disability under the Equality Act 2010. A person is considered to have a disability if they have a long-standing physical, mental, or intellectual disability or impairment which causes difficulty with day-to-day activities.

## Details of impact

### Customers

Yes     No

### Impact

Positive     Neutral     Negative

### Level

None     Low     Medium     High

## Details of impact

We do not collect data on pregnancy; however the re-commissioning of this service will mean that pregnant women will be supported to keep themselves and their child/children safe and that they will receive support with parenting e.g. breast feeding, weaning etc. Within the core refuge a lift and a buggy store are provided. Children's play areas and appropriate toys for all ages are also available for residents' children.

## Race

### Staff

Yes     No

### Impact

Positive     Neutral     Negative

### Level

None     Low     Medium     High

## Details of impact

### Customers

Yes     No

### Impact

Positive     Neutral     Negative

### Level

None     Low     Medium     High

## Details of impact

We recognise the additional issues and barriers to accessing support faced by people from non white ethnicities who are experiencing domestic abuse and acknowledge that we need to do better as an authority to meet the needs of those who are marginalised due to race in our city, including improving our data collection, consultation and analysis.

A consultation survey with service users told us that overwhelmingly, those who responded from the BAMER community would prefer to have the choice of receiving support from a specialist BAMER worker.

Of people accessing refuge accommodation in 2020/21, 33% were from a BAMER background and in Safe Zones accommodation, it was 40%.

It is essential that those experiencing domestic abuse are supported by workers who may have clear understanding and experience of the additional barriers that people of colour can often face and can understand a victim/survivor's cultural and/or religious needs and values and how they impact on or support their recovery from domestic abuse. We are fortunate in having a high proportion of BAMER staff in refuge services at present and in the specification for the re-commissioned safe accommodation, we have said that we expect that the provider/s will provide staff from a BAMER background, who are able to speak community languages to be able to meet the needs of people they are supporting. Interpreting services



will also be available. The recommissioned services specifications will ensure that staff are able legal, cultural and immigration needs. The impact will be monitored in contract management and in discussions with providers and stakeholders.

## Religion/Belief

### Staff

Yes  No

### Impact

Positive  Neutral  Negative

### Level

None  Low  Medium  High

### Details of impact

### Customers

Yes  No

### Impact

Positive  Neutral  Negative

### Level

None  Low  Medium  High

### Details of impact

Data from the Oasis case management system which is used in Sheffield refuges tell us that 31% of victims at the refuge during 2020 stated they had no religion, 36% said they were Muslim, 18% were Christian, 10% did not have this information recorded and the remaining 5% were 'Other Religion'.

We know there are issues such as forced marriage and so called 'honour' based abuse that disproportionately affect certain faith groups in the city. Safe accommodation providers, the police and social care work closely together to protect people affected by these issues. However, we know that data collection on prevalence needs improving.

A service user survey told us that the large majority of those accessing domestic abuse support feel as though support offered was respectful of their religion and met their cultural needs.

The re-commissioned service will allow those people with religious beliefs to continue to practice them within a safe environment. Participation in faith activity is one of the required outcomes of the service and will be monitored as part of contract management.

**Staff** Yes  No**Impact** Positive  Neutral  Negative**Level** None  Low  Medium  High**Details of impact****Customers** Yes  No**Impact** Positive  Neutral  Negative**Level** None  Low  Medium  High**Details of impact**

The national CSEW estimates show that domestic abuse prevalence is proportionally higher amongst gay, lesbian, and bi-sexual people. In contrast to this, the Sheffield data on people accessing safe accommodation shows that LGB people are underrepresented.

We also know that the wider LGBT+ (lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and trans +) communities are underrepresented in other domestic abuse services in the city, supporting the view that there are barriers to LGBT+ people in accessing support.

Sheffield's Call It Out project<sup>17</sup> has helped us understand more about the how 'the public story on domestic abuse', has usually focused on cis<sup>18</sup>-heterosexual couples and can lead to LGBT+ people believing that what is happening to them does not count as domestic abuse. Existing services appear to be designed with the needs of cis-heterosexual women in mind, and LGBT+ people are wary of services that are not explicitly LGBT+ inclusive due to a fear of discrimination and/or a belief that their experiences will not be understood. This leads to a distrust of services because of a perceived or experienced instances of homophobia and transphobia.

Prevalence of domestic abuse amongst LGBT+ people is at least as high as they are for cis-gender heterosexual women. It is therefore imperative that services are inclusive (in line with current legislation) to all people and that the promotion of services informs the public that anyone can be a victim of domestic abuse and that support available for domestic abuse is for everyone.

The re-commissioning of the safe accommodation and support services will mean that LGBT+ people will be able to be accommodated safely and receive support in a non-discriminatory way.

**Transgender****Staff** Yes  No**Impact** Positive  Neutral  Negative**Level** None  Low  Medium  High

**Details of impact**

**Customers**

Yes     No

**Impact**

Positive     Neutral     Negative

**Level**

None     Low     Medium     High

**Details of impact**

In 2018-19, of the 103 leavers, one person (1%) identified as being a transgender woman. Among service users in 2020-21, no-one has identified as being transgender.

The service will ensure that there is private space and access will be open to all who have suffered domestic abuse for whatever reason. Support will ensure that all residents are made to feel welcome and supported.

The re-commissioning of the safe accommodation and support services will mean that LGBT+ people will be able to be accommodated safely and receive support in a non-discriminatory way. Access will continue to be monitored in the contract monitoring of client record data.

**Carers**

**Staff**

Yes     No

**Impact**

Positive     Neutral     Negative

**Level**

None     Low     Medium     High

**Details of impact**

**Customers**

Yes     No

**Impact**

Positive     Neutral     Negative

**Level**

None     Low     Medium     High

**Details of impact**

## Voluntary/Community & Faith Sectors

### Staff

Yes  No

### Impact

Positive  Neutral  Negative

### Level

None  Low  Medium  High

### Details of impact

The services are currently provided by the VCF sector, the proposal to recommission supports the possibility of continuation of work with the current provider, if they are successful in the tender, or potentially another organisation from the VCF. If the current providers do not win the tender, their staff may be TUPE'd across to the successful bidder, which may, or may not, be within the VCF sector; however, the staff will continue to work with and retain their knowledge of, other VCF services.

### Customers

Yes  No

### Impact

Positive  Neutral  Negative

### Level

None  Low  Medium  High

### Details of impact

The services are currently provided by the VCF sector, the proposal to recommission supports the possibility of continuation of work with the current providers, if they are successful in the tender, or potentially another VCF provider. Many of the services in the city which support women and families affected by domestic abuse were founded and remain within the voluntary and community sectors and their expertise underpins this service. The specifications require the provider to work in partnership with the VCF sector organisations and to ensure that the service users are linked into cultural /faith organisations where they have expressed a wish to be so. Space is available in the 'core' refuge and bidders are asked in the tender documents to ensure that this will be available in any other accommodation.

## Cohesion

### Staff

Yes  No

### Impact

Positive  Neutral  Negative

### Level

None  Low  Medium  High

### Details of impact

### Customers

Yes  No

### Impact

Positive  Neutral  Negative

### Level

None  Low  Medium  High

**Details of impact**

The services will support victims/survivors and their children from a wide range of diverse backgrounds. Access to English language lessons, cultural support and empowerment towards independent living will be emphasised in the service specifications. The services will provide for all backgrounds will ensure diversity, better meeting the needs of the widening diversity of communities in Sheffield and will promote a respectful and tolerant culture. The support to gain/ increase independent living skills will enable service users to understand their rights and responsibilities as citizens and tenants and to be part of their local communities.

**Partners****Staff**

Yes       No

**Impact**

Positive     Neutral     Negative

**Level**

None       Low       Medium       High

**Details of impact****Customers**

Yes       No

**Impact**

Positive     Neutral     Negative

**Level**

None       Low       Medium       High

**Details of impact**

The re-commissioning of the safe accommodation and support service will enable the working relationships with other partner agencies to be maintained and to continue to be built, ensuring effective, responsive services for victims/survivors and children requiring support.

**Poverty & Financial Inclusion****Staff**

Yes       No

**Impact**

Positive     Neutral     Negative

**Level**

None       Low       Medium       High

### Details of impact

#### Customers

Yes     No

#### Impact

Positive     Neutral     Negative

#### Level

None     Low     Medium     High

### Details of impact

As currently, the services will be available for victims/survivors and their children in need of emergency, or refuge accommodation. It is most likely to be used by households, who do not have financial resources to find and pay for their own solutions to move out of an abusive relationship. The service will support women and their families to move onto independent living through income maximisation and providing opportunities to access education, training and employment. Achieving economic well-being is one of the outcomes monitored by contract management.

### Armed Forces

#### Staff

Yes     No

#### Impact

Positive     Neutral     Negative

#### Level

None     Low     Medium     High

### Details of impact

#### Customers

Yes     No

#### Impact

Positive     Neutral     Negative

#### Level

None     Low     Medium     High

### Details of impact

### Other

#### Staff

Yes     No

Please specify **Page 28**

**Impact**

- Positive     Neutral     Negative

**Level**

- None     Low     Medium     High

**Details of impact****Customers**

- Yes     No

*Please specify*

**Impact**

- Positive     Neutral     Negative

**Level**

- None     Low     Medium     High

**Details of impact**

## Cumulative Impact

**Proposal has a cumulative impact**

- Yes     No

<input type="radio"/> Year on Year	<input type="radio"/> Across a Community of Identity/Interest
<input type="radio"/> Geographical Area	<input type="radio"/> Other

*If yes, details of impact*

**Proposal has geographical impact across Sheffield**

- Yes     No

*If Yes, details of geographical impact across Sheffield*

**Local Partnership Area(s) impacted**

- All     Specific

*If Specific, name of Local Partnership Area(s) impacted*

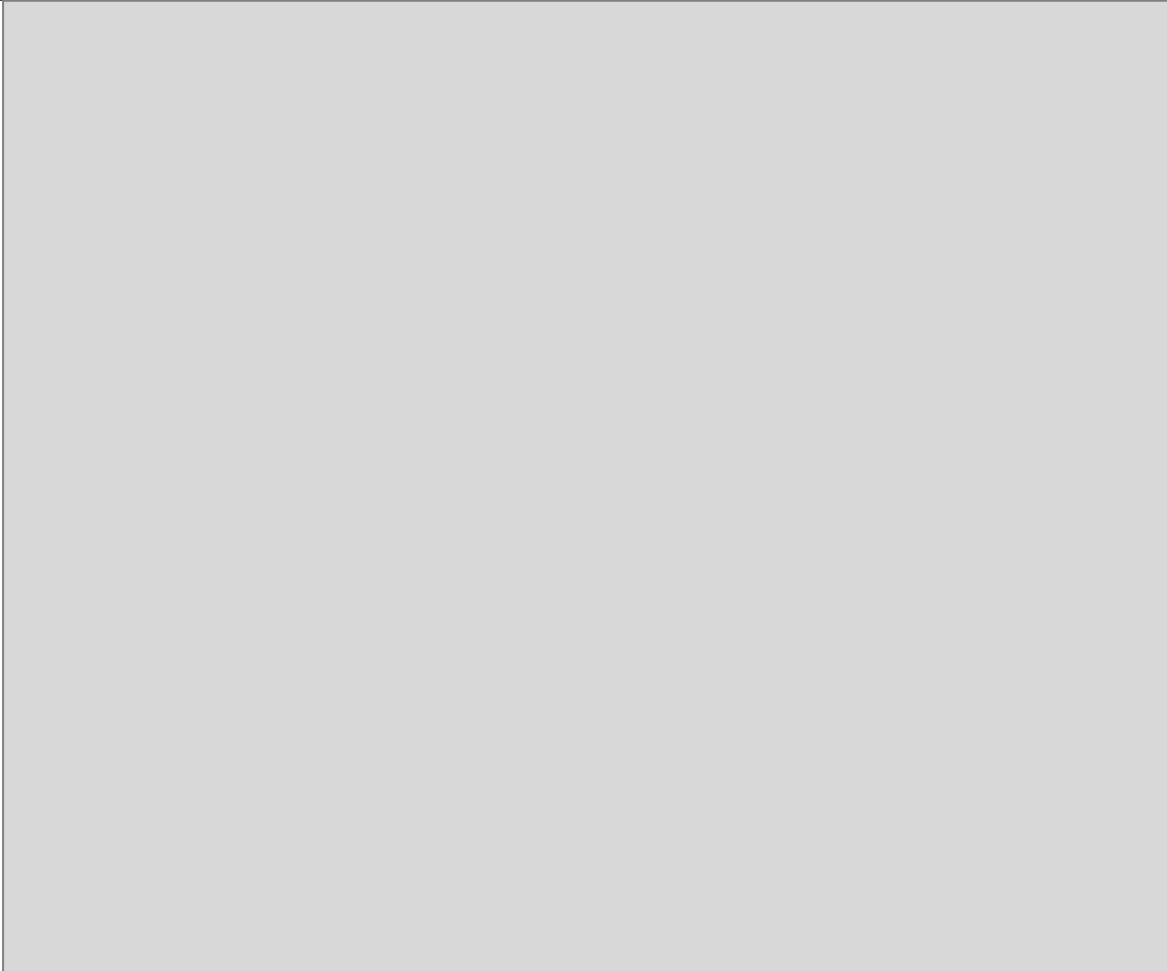
## Action Plan and Supporting Evidence

### Action Plan

Area	Action and Mitigation	Lead, Timescale and how it will be monitored and reviewed
<b>Age</b>	<p>Work to develop our understanding of the barriers faced by older adults in reporting domestic abuse and accessing safe accommodation and support. We will consult with providers and those with lived experience to ensure that future commissioning meets the needs of this group. Ensure that families living in safe accommodation have the opportunity to discuss their children's needs, without judgement, with a support worker, who can understand the impact of DA on them and their child/ren and can help with that.</p> <p>Outside the scope of this EIA, we are maintaining specialist young people's safe accommodation to increase both the numbers of young people able to be accommodated and also increase the support offer to them.</p>	<p>Commissioner and team. Regular participation in strategic and operational groups within DA and homelessness. Use of monitoring data, consultation and demographic data to shape appropriate provision within new services</p>
<b>Race</b>	<p>Work in conjunction with partners and other networks in the city, particularly consulting BAMER communities, to better understand and monitor Sheffield demographic data in relation to DA needs and barriers to accessing services. Monitor new services to ensure that all women have equal access to services which meet their cultural and faith needs</p>	<p>Commissioner and team. Regular participation in strategic and operational groups within DA and homelessness. Use of monitoring data, consultation and demographic data to shape appropriate provision within new services</p>
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	<p>Work in conjunction with DACT partners and other networks in the city to understand and monitor Sheffield data in relation to DA needs and barriers to accessing services</p>	<p>Commissioner and team. Regular participation in strategic and operational groups within DA and homelessness. Use of monitoring data, consultation and demographic data to shape appropriate provision within new services</p>
<b>Transgender</b>	<p>Work in conjunction all service providers to improve the data collected locally in respect of people who are transgender and those who are non binary and we will use this data to inform our future commissioning of safe accommodation and support for both transgender and non binary victims/survivors.</p>	<p>Commissioner and team. Regular participation in strategic and operational groups within DA and homelessness. Use of monitoring data, consultation and demographic data to shape appropriate provision within new services</p>
<b>Disability</b>	<p>Work in conjunction with DACT partners and other networks in the city to understand and to monitor Sheffield data in relation to DA needs and barriers to accessing services needs</p>	<p>Commissioner and team. Regular participation in strategic and operational groups within DA and homelessness</p> <p>Use of monitoring data, consultation and demographic data to shape</p>



		appropriate provision within new service
<b>Working Group</b>	Working Group to include Method statement question(s) to ensure that the service addresses the needs of all protected groups	Procurement working group Fe/March 2022



**Supporting Evidence** (Please detail all your evidence used to support the EIA)

- Results of Domestic Abuse survey – June 2021
- Results of consultation with Service Users – September 2021
- Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment – August 2021
- Domestic Abuse draft Safe Accommodation Strategy – October 2021
- Various monitoring data from Housing Support Pathway (HSP) and Oasis, Domestic Abuse case management system
- Crime Survey of England and Wales 2019/20

**Consultation**

**Consultation required**

- Yes       No

**If consultation is not required please state why**

The following consultation has already been undertaken:

- A survey on the digital platform, Citizenspace, to discover the public's thoughts and ideas about domestic abuse and safe accommodation
- A survey of service users to find out their opinions of the current services
- A survey of staff to enable them to give their views about the current services
- Focus group sessions with service users in safe accommodation

**Are Staff who may be affected by these proposals aware of them**

Yes                       No

**Are Customers who may be affected by these proposals aware of them**

Yes                       No

**If you have said no to either please say why**

Residents of the refuge and Safe Zones will be made aware nearer the tender publication

## Summary of overall impact

### Summary of overall impact

The service model will help the Council meet its statutory responsibility to accommodate women and children who are homeless or at risk of homelessness as a result of domestic abuse. It is important that the service design provides good quality service provision at an efficient cost which is affordable and will be sustainable for the future.

The re-commissioned service will continue the council's aim of meeting the needs of victims/survivors and children from Sheffield, who wish to remain in Sheffield whilst still having some capacity and flexibility to support households from other areas seeking to reach a place of safety.

The impact of the proposal is positive. This proposal to re-commission the services, if agreed, will enable the continuation of refuge and Safe Zones accommodation and support for 5 years. The service will be available for all protected groups. Access to the service will, as now, be measured and monitored through data collection and performance monitoring. Outcomes achieved with service users are also monitored. In addition to this, the specification requires the provider to carry out an exit survey when a service user moves on and a regular client satisfaction survey.

As part of the tender selection process the successful tenderer will be required to produce an implementation plan to ensure the smooth transition from one service provider to another, should that be required.

The Executive Member for Health and Social Care has received briefings and information on the proposal and progress. Ongoing dialogue will be a key influence on the ongoing development of the service model and any decisions in relation to that.

### Summary of evidence

- Public, staff and service user consultation;
- HSP and Oasis monitoring data
- DA Needs Assessment 2021; and
- draft Safe Accommodation Strategy 2021

**Changes made as a result of the EIA**

[Empty text box for changes made as a result of the EIA]

**Escalation plan**

**Is there a high impact in any area?**

- Yes       No

**Overall risk rating after any mitigations have been put in place**

- High     Medium     Low     None

**Review Date**

01/10/2023

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