



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Funding to strengthen accommodation based specialist domestic abuse service provision

Bidding Prospectus

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Funding to strengthen accommodation based specialist domestic abuse service provision

Bidding Prospectus

Summary

This is a new £10million fund for local housing authorities to help them strengthen refuge services so that we have effective national coverage that keeps victims of domestic abuse safe. The funding is available for 2014-15 to 2015-16. Applications are invited from individual local housing authorities or those working together in partnerships by 5pm 16th January 2015.

Policy context

The homelessness legislation in England provides one of the strongest safety nets in the world for victims of abuse who find themselves homeless through no fault of their own. It provides a consistent, national statutory framework for the provision of homelessness assistance across England.

Local housing authorities have clear duties towards vulnerable victims of domestic abuse. The dynamics of domestic abuse mean that accommodation can play an important role in the resolution of interpersonal abuse and conflict. It is the foundation to ensuring that adult and child victims are afforded safety and security. In order to maintain our strong safety net and provide support that meets the victims' needs we need effective national refuge coverage.

All local housing authorities need to play their part in maintaining this coverage.

Whilst local authorities have looked to make savings it is clear that many areas around the country have managed to do this and at the same time protect front line services. However we are aware that some local areas are making commissioning decisions to close or replace specialist domestic abuse provision with generic services that provide very limited, if any, support. We are also aware of some authorities who only provide support to local victims refusing to help all others. Government is concerned that this is happening.

On average a victim will attempt to flee the perpetrator 32 times before they are successful. The smallest of barriers can send them straight back to their abuser. They know that when there is effective national coverage that for each victim from outside their area they offer support to a victim from their own area will seek assistance elsewhere.

This activity undermines the government's approach to tackling violence against women and children, by failing to provide an adequate safety net to victims of abuse and their children that we can expect in a caring, democratic society.

The government is, therefore, making available up to £10m of funding over two years (2014-15, and 2015-16) to halt the further closure of good quality refuges, increase provision where appropriate and place refuges on a sustainable footing.

General information about funding scheme

This resource funding is to be used to provide refuges that adhere to the standards set out at Annex A. It should provide support to victims who come from any district and not just local residents. There will be **one bidding round** to provide resource funding with the payments split over the two years (up to £3 million will be available in 2014-15 and up to £7 million in 2015-16). We would ask bidders to shape their profiles accordingly. We are inviting bids from all local housing authorities working with their local specialist providers who wish to place the provision on a stable footing. Up to £100,000 will be available to each successful local housing authority.

We will welcome bids from single authorities and also groups of authorities who wish to bid for multiples of the funding. If a group of authorities bid we ask that you nominate a lead authority.

How to apply

Applicants are required to submit bids no later than 5pm on Friday 16th January 2015 to: refugefunding@communities.gsi.gov.uk.

Bids should be submitted using the attached application form. Bidders are encouraged to limit their application to 5 sides of A4.

An officer should be nominated for contact purposes. Please provide a telephone number and email address.

If local authorities have any queries about the bidding process they should contact refugefunding@communities.gsi.gov.uk.

Assessment of applications

Bids will be assessed by DCLG officials, and Ministers will take the final decision on which bids to support. The bids will be assessed against the following criteria:

Funding to strengthen accommodation based specialist domestic abuse service provision: bid assessment criteria		
Criteria	Points available	Reasons for these criteria
(a) Scope of provision of refuge accommodation including support for victims including to those from outside the local authority area. Successful bids must extend support to victims who come from outside their area.	Pass or fail	The Government is committed to maximising provision of accommodation and care support for victims including local authority support being extended to victims from

		<p>outside their area to ensure local authority boundaries are not a barrier to helping victims.</p> <p>Those bids that do not include this element will not be considered.</p>
<p>(b) Partnership working. Scope and strength of partnership working across the local authority (or authorities), its services and wider partners e.g. housing and social services, the police and voluntary agencies and groups. Successful bids should demonstrate partnerships support.</p> <p>5 points: strong partnership working exists or is proposed on a robust and evidenced basis project plan with very clear milestones, very good analysis of risks and very effective mitigation measures identified</p> <p>3 points: good partnership working proposals</p> <p>1 point: very limited or no evidence or partnership working, actual or proposed</p>	<p>Up to 5</p>	<p>The government expects to see authorities taking a strategic approach to tackling domestic abuse. The provision of refuge alone is not enough to tackle domestic abuse. Local authorities should demonstrate they are working with local partners to tackle and prevent domestic abuse in a coordinated way.</p>
<p>(c) Deliverability and capacity, including staff and other key resources, to deliver the proposals</p> <p>5 points: strong proposals with evidence of high certainty of delivery in 14/15 and 15/16 supported by a very good assessment of the resource (staff and any other) needed and very clear confirmation that this is available</p> <p>3 points: good proposals with satisfactory certainty of delivery in 14/15 and 15/16 and a good assessment of resource requirements and clear confirmation that this is available.</p> <p>1 point: no or very limited or unclear certainty of delivery and assessment of resource needs/availability</p>	<p>Up to 5</p>	<p>The funding for successful bidders will provide an important boost to local authorities and agencies in the provision of refuge support. However the government considers that evidenced deliverability of proposals is crucially important and that in most cases government funding will need to be supplemented by additional resources, including staff and volunteer time, if good quality support is to be delivered. To ensure confidence that this will be achieved a clear assessment about the likelihood of delivery and level of resources needed and a commitment to ensuring these will be vital to the successful bids.</p>

<p>(d) Standards. Bids should demonstrate how their provision will meet the standards set out at Annex A</p> <p>5 points: strong proposals that clearly demonstrate a clear commitment across the full standards.</p> <p>3 points: satisfactory evidence of meeting the standards</p> <p>1 point: unclear or no evidence and commitment</p>	<p>Up to 5</p>	<p>For victims with severe needs and with highly dangerous perpetrators, refuges will be the most appropriate type of accommodation. To deal with the trauma of the abuse and give them a chance to move on they will require intensive support. The provision of bricks and mortar alone is not the answer. Services that provide those support elements set out in Annex A will be able to meet needs of these victims, keep them safe and help stop abuse happening in the future.</p>
<p>(e) Value for Money. Evidence of value for money on provision of accommodation and support services. This should as a minimum address the cost of provision by bedspace and support services by victim numbers e.g. per bedspace and victim and also demonstrate the additionality of funding bid for.</p> <p>5 points: strong proposals with very good evidence to show how the funding will support the delivery of the local development order including a breakdown of activities and costs.</p> <p>3 points: good evidence of value for money in respect of both accommodation and support service provision to show the how the funding will support the delivery of the local development order</p> <p>1 point: very limited or unclear evidence of value for money.</p>	<p>Up to 5</p>	<p>Successful bidders will need to set out clearly how they intend to spend the funding and provide value for money including a breakdown of proposed activities and costs and demonstrate why it is cost effective including as best possible on a cost per victim basis.</p> <p>Bidders should also demonstrate that funding sought will be additional to existing funding provision and not replacement funding.</p>
<p>(f) Sustainability. How funding will be used to place local provision on a sustainable footing beyond 2015/16.</p> <p>5 points: strong proposals with very good evidence to show for both accommodation and support service provision how the partnership will continue to support victims</p> <p>3 points: good evidence of sustainability in respect of both accommodation and support service provision to show how the</p>	<p>Up to 5</p>	<p>Applicants should show how they intend to use the funding to help place local provision on a sustainable footing. Bids should explain how they have assessed current need and how they have met this need. The bids should also explain how they will measure future need and what plans they have put in place to ensure that</p>

partnership will continue to support victims 1 point: very limited or unclear evidence of sustainability.		need is met. The assessment of need and plans for provision should take account of victims who come from other areas
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We will also be interested in bids that show where additional funding will be provided by the authority and their partners. The additional resources that are being offered under this process are not intended to pay for provision to tackle domestic abuse over the funding period where this would otherwise have been funded locally; the funding is intended to relieve the immediate pressure on budget-setting decisions and allow successful bidders the time and resources they need to develop and build a self-sustaining strategy going forward in partnership with other authorities and/or sector specialists.

Bids must demonstrate that they have support from the Chief Executive of their authority, and, where relevant, the commitment of partner providers. If the bid involves a number of authorities working in partnership, each partner authority must provide a letter of support.

Costs and funding arrangements

DCLG would expect to provide, per authority, around £100,000 split over two years, and funding bids should as far as possible reflect the profile of available funding (up to £3m in 2014-15 and up to £7m in 2015-16). All proposals must involve work beginning in 2014-15 and being delivered into 2015-16.

Proposals must set out the total amount of funding sought and indicate how spend will breakdown by financial year and in detail by accommodation and support service provision.

Bids which include more than one local authority must designate the lead local authority to which payment is to be made.

Funding will be issued as unringfenced resource grant under s.31 of the Local Government Act 2003, subject to HM Treasury consent.

Standards

1. Safety, Security and Dignity

- Victims can access crisis support at any time and receive a timely response.
- Victims are assessed and offered services on the basis of their individual need for safety and support
- Victims are assisted to move geographical location if necessary for their safety
- Provision for male victims is located separately from women's services, within dedicated men's services.

2. Rights and Access

- Service users are believed and listened to and service interventions are respectful of their rights to self determination
- Service users with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 can access dedicated specialist services addressing their particular needs
- Resources are allocated to addressing barriers to access.

3. Health and Wellbeing

- The physical, mental and sexual health needs of service users are addressed
- Service users can access individual counselling or group work to build their confidence and resources
- The organisation works with partners in the sexual violence sector to provide specialist therapeutic support
- The safety and wellbeing of staff teams is attended to.

4. Stability, resilience and autonomy

- Service users are supported to take charge of decision-making processes in their lives
- Service users are encouraged to identify goals and access education, training and employment to maximise their stability and independence
- Service users have access to resettlement and follow-up services with exit strategies tailored to individual need.

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 mothers 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

- Children and young people are better informed and educated around consent, healthy relationships, gender inequality and violence against women and girls
- The organisation contributes to training and awareness-raising activities with other professionals and within local communities.
- The organisation contributes to local strategies for ending violence against women and girls.

Application Form: Funding to strengthen accommodation based specialist domestic abuse service provision

Name, address & contact details of applicant lead local authority:

Names of partners:

Amount of grant sought:

Profile of bid 2014-15:

	14/15	15/16
Support		
Staff costs		
Other		
total		

How many bed spaces – adhering to the standard set out at Annex A- will the funding provide?

Please describe your current domestic abuse service provision.

How many refuge bed spaces do you currently provide?
Of these how many provide the levels of support as outlined in Annex A of the bidding prospectus?
How many households will your current provision support during the course of a year (also provide split of adults/children)?
How have you assessed the need for refuge in your area?
What need did you identify ((number of households/adults/children/needs levels)?
What is the shortfall against current provision?
How have you assessed future need?
What future need have you identified (number of households/adults/children/needs levels)?
What plans have you in place to meet this need?

Have you closed or stopped funding any refuge provision in the last 2 years?
If so how many bed spaces and why?

(a) Scope of provision of refuge accommodation including support for victims including to those from outside the local authority area.

Do you currently provide refuge support for victims from other areas? If so does this provision meet the current need?

Does your funding proposal provide refuge support to victims from other areas?

How do you propose to provide that support to victims who come from outside your area?

Partnership working

Which other organisations do you currently work with locally to tackle domestic support and support survivors?

What are your proposals to improve current partnership arrangements?

What effect do you think this will have?

What effect will this funding have on your partnership working?

Deliverability and capacity, including staff and other key resources, to deliver the proposals

What assessment have you made of the level of resource required to deliver the commitments set out in your bid?

How have you ensured these resources will be in place?

Standards

How do the refuge bed spaces meet the support service standards as set out at annex A of the bidding prospectus?

Are there elements of this support that are additional to those you were providing previously?

Value for money

How many additional spaces against current provision – meeting the

standards at Annex A - will this funding provide?

Sustainability

What will you do to maintain the levels of refuge provision this funding will secure in future years?

What other things are you doing to place domestic abuse services on a sustainable footing?

Match funding

What financial contribution to refuge services do your partners make?

What financial contribution do your other partners make to other services to tackle and prevent domestic abuse?

What match funding do you or your partners propose to make as a result of this bid?

Other relevant information

Completed forms to be submitted by 5pm 16th January 2015 to:
refugefunding@communities.gsi.gov.uk