



Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government

# Funding to help support victims of domestic abuse 2015/16

Bidding Prospectus

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August 2015

ISBN: 978-1-4098-4663-5

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# 2015/16 Fund to help ensure no victim of domestic abuse is turned away from help

## Bidding Prospectus

### Summary

1. Government's Manifesto commitment stated that ***"We will now work with local authorities, the NHS and Police and Crime Commissioners to ensure a secure future for specialist FGM and forced marriage units, refuges and rape crisis centres."*** We will develop our plan to deliver this as part of the refresh of the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy which is being led by the Home Office.
2. Issues in the way that accommodation based services that are designed to specifically meet the needs of domestic abuse victims have seen their funding allocated, has meant that geographical gaps in provision have arisen. While not all victims of domestic violence need specialist, accommodation-based services, for those with an immediate need to leave situations of abuse for their own safety and that of their children, they provide lifesaving support.
3. Following evidence that victims and their children attempting to leave situations of domestic abuse are being turned away from accommodation-based services with specialist support, the Budget announced a £3 million fund for 2015/16. This Fund invites bids to help fill local gaps in accommodation-based services with specialist support for victims of domestic abuse to ensure that no victim is turned away from the support they need, while a long term solution to the funding of accommodation-based support is sought.
4. The Fund will operate in the remainder of the 2015/16 financial year. We can only fund bids where work will be complete by 31 March 2016. We will require confirmation that approved funding will be allocated to the named provider(s) in your bid.
5. If you would like to discuss your proposals with the Homelessness Team please contact [DomesticAbuse.Fund@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:DomesticAbuse.Fund@communities.gsi.gov.uk) and someone from the team will get in touch.

6. The local Troubled Families Co-ordinators, can be contacted through the DCLG Troubled Families Team on [families.team@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:families.team@communities.gsi.gov.uk).
7. The Public Services Transformation team are also available for help and advice, particularly on innovation and can be contacted on <http://publicservicetransformation.org/contact>.

## **Responding to Local Challenges**

8. The Fund will support proposals which respond to the geographical gaps in accommodation-based services with specialist support, and welcomes bids which can demonstrate a) that there is a shortfall of this type of support locally, and b) that the solution proposed is designed to meet the needs of victims. Where there are demonstrable shortfalls in provision, for specialist domestic violence refuges or refuges with particular specialisms such as services run by and for BME victims, we would expect you to show that these gaps exist as evidence of demand.
9. We are interested in high quality outcomes as well as efficient delivery, and as this Fund also seeks innovation, we are open to a range of proposals from local partnerships that demonstrate how the needs of victims could be met in innovative ways, through collaboration to provide or support the provision of refuges or other accommodation-based support services with specialist support, as well as through support services which enable victims to access this accommodation based provision
10. Bids must be put forward by a local authority, working in a partnership with service providers. As a minimum we expect this to involve the Local Authority, as the service commissioner and funder, and local specialist domestic violence service providers. We would also be open to proposals bringing in other service providers. Partnerships must address the needs of victims who are vulnerable or excluded, and for whom the gaps in provision may be particularly acute, including BME victims. We are also very interested in bids that demonstrate how the service will be accessible to victims from across boundaries (i.e. regardless of the victim's Local Authority of origin). Partnerships may therefore include more than one Local Authority, but with one leading the bid.
11. All bids must help deliver the local strategy for domestic abuse service provision, and provide evidence of local need and gaps in provision in specialist refuge bedspaces. Bids may offer ways of improving/ establishing access to these

bedspaces, particularly for victims who may have difficulty in accessing these services because of their vulnerability or isolation.

## Value for money

12. The Government is required to ensure its proposals are value for money – which means bids must demonstrate how they will provide additional outcomes over and above current provision. We are interested in high quality outcomes as well as efficient delivery. We are open to a range of proposals that provide or support the provision of refuges or other accommodation-based support services with specialist support. We recognise that different types of victims will have different needs – so your bid could be for specialist refuge places or for specialist refuges for specific groups (i.e. for mental health, substance abuse, or particular needs of different ethnic communities), or, where this best meets local need, other accommodation based services with specialist support, or other support services that enable victims to access this support.
13. Proposals must set out the forecast outcomes in a way which allows us to determine their value. There are different ways you could do this, but they need to be quantifiable. You need to quantify the number of victims you will be assisting in refuges or accommodation based services with specialist support and ensure that these services meet the DCLG Quality Standards set out in Annex A. You will also need to set out the number of additional bed spaces achieved through the funding, and how this relates to the existing number of bedspaces in your area. You may of course also describe how victims' lives will be turned around by this intervention over the longer term, but our assessment will primarily be based on figures.
14. In order to ensure that this funding is targeted towards filling gaps in provision, there will be a presumption that partnerships who received funding from the £10m fund launched at the end of 2014 would have to put forward very strong proposals, and demonstrate how they can fill additional unmet need, in order to be successful in this round.
15. Conversely, areas which have demonstrable need but were not successful in the earlier fund should not assume they will be unsuccessful this time, and should consult with their local Troubled Families co-ordinator for advice.

## Process

16. Bids must be submitted by the Local Authority where the service will be provided. The local authority is the grant recipient, responsible to their local community for delivering on their bid, and needs – as domestic abuse services commissioner - to be fully involved.
17. As well as addressing shortfalls and fostering innovation, a further purpose of this Fund is to provide evidence of the current local situation on domestic abuse services, and their impact on local outcomes. We are therefore asking you to tell us the number of bedspaces in your local area, [the types of accommodation housing these bedspaces, eg refuges, Sanctuary Schemes, other accommodation) and the numbers of women turned away from existing accommodation (and what path they then take). Evidence of the type of bids coming forward will help inform policy development on services for domestic violence as part of the VAWG strategy refresh and will also contribute to work on long term funding of accommodation-based services with specialist support.
18. We need to learn from you and your partners on how best to deliver services. So although we will not formally monitor, DCLG officials will be in contact and will arrange visits to a number of projects between autumn 2015 and March 2016. We are considering sending a voluntary questionnaire at the close of the programme to help us learn. We would also like the local authority partner to set out in your proposal your own suggestions for evaluation and judging whether the proposal has achieved its objectives, and your proposals for sharing what you have learned across England. We would welcome your thoughts and suggestions on how well proposals are working.
19. There will be one bidding round to allocate resource funding of up to £3.07 million which must be spent by 31 March 2016.

## How to apply

Applicants are required to submit bids no later than **5pm on Thursday 1 October 2015** to [DomesticAbuse.Fund@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:DomesticAbuse.Fund@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

We would also be very grateful for the information requested on criterion 1 (geographical gaps in provision) ahead of this date, ie by Thursday 10 September to help to contribute to evidence-gathering for our review of domestic abuse services. The criterion 1 questions are repeated in a separate annex B – we would appreciate it if you could send this back to [DomesticAbuse.Fund@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:DomesticAbuse.Fund@communities.gsi.gov.uk) by 5pm on 10 September.

Bids should be submitted using the attached application form. Bidders are encouraged to limit their application to 5 sides of A4. Bids must include supporting evidence and the requirements for this evidence are set out in the application form.

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

If local authorities have any queries about the bidding process they should contact [DomesticAbuse.Fund@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:DomesticAbuse.Fund@communities.gsi.gov.uk).

### Assessment of applications

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

Criteria	Points available	Reasons for these criteria
<u>Addressing current geographical gaps in the availability of accommodation based services with specialist support</u>	Pass/Fail	The Government wants to address gaps in provision to help to ensure no victim is turned away, and wants this to be based on evidence of local need. Bids will need to show clearly the numbers of refuge, and other accommodation-based support bedspaces in your area currently, the forecast level of demand and what the gap in provision is, and how the proposal will fill this need.
<u>Meet the DCLG Quality Standards as set out in Annex A</u>		To make sure that the proposed services are of sufficient quality to meet victims' needs.



<p><u>Innovation</u> Evidence of new ways of delivering through partnership bids filling short term local gaps in the provision of accommodation based services with specialist support and improving/establishing access to this support, particularly for victims who may have difficulty in accessing these services because of their vulnerability or isolation.</p> <p>Scoring system</p> <p><b>5 points:</b> strong proposals with very good evidence of innovative approaches to address short term gaps in accommodation based services and other service provision identified by local need</p> <p><b>3 points:</b> good evidence of accommodation based service proposals.</p> <p><b>1 point:</b> very limited or no evidence of innovative approaches</p>	<p>Up to 5</p>	<p>Government expects to see authorities taking an innovative approach to tackling domestic abuse and will expect the fund to support proposals that help to meet critical, short term and immediate challenges in accommodation based service provision or other short term services as identified by local need.</p> <p>Bids should set out how their proposal meets the needs of those who have struggled to access services – for example some BME communities, and victims with specialist and complex needs</p> <p>We are particularly looking for innovative bids that include more cost effective ways of working and meeting the needs of new client groups.</p> <p>Whilst proposals must reflect local needs, local areas will take into account service provision in their areas which serves a broader national client group ie being the only refuge across the country for a particular BME group.</p>
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<p><u>Supporting areas' local strategies on domestic abuse and setting out longer term plans for sustainability.</u></p> <p>Scoring system</p> <p><b>5 points:</b> strong proposals with very good evidence of addressing need identified in the local strategy, and with strong potential to lead to a sustainable long term solution.</p> <p><b>3 points:</b> good evidence of the above</p> <p><b>1 point:</b> very limited or no evidence of the above</p>		<p>Reflecting that refuge may be one critical part of the victim's pathway, the Government is looking for evidence of how your proposal for refuge provision fits into your area's wide strategy, in order to ensure join up across services and approaches to tackling domestic abuse.</p> <p>Bids should set out how they will further the development of local strategies on domestic abuse, and how they will help create sustainable and long term approaches to supporting victims. This latter must include how the service will be sustained when this funding ends on 31 March 2016.</p>
<p><u>Partnership working and working across Local Authority boundaries</u></p> <p>Scoring system</p> <p><b>5 points:</b> strong partnership working exists or is proposed on a robust and evidenced based project plan with very clear milestones, very good analysis of need/risk and very effective mitigation measures identified.</p> <p><b>3 points:</b> good partnership working</p>	<p>Up to 5</p>	<p>Successful bidders will need to demonstrate that they have worked with under-represented groups with complex needs and BME groups to identify and respond to local need, in preparing the bid. Partnerships must include domestic abuse/accommodation based service providers in particular, namely the local specialist domestic violence refuge service provider and include providers specialising in complex and specialist needs. Partnerships should bring in other service providers such the local health service, and police wherever possible. In the interests of submitting bids by the deadline, bidders will want to consider how the proposal can be developed quickly, using existing tried and tested partnership arrangements, but ensuring that there is full representation for providers meeting specialist and BME needs.</p> <p>We want to see such partnership bids</p>

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<p>proposals. <b>1 point:</b> very limited or no evidence or partnership working actual or proposed.</p>		<p>demonstrating cross boundary working across Local Authority boundaries to meet need and break down barriers to accommodation-based service delivery, for victims who travel away from their home area to go into refuge. Bids may include one or more local authorities working in partnership (with one being nominated as the lead authority).</p>
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<p><u>Value for money and additionality</u></p> <p>Evidence of value for money. Bids should give a <b>full</b> costing strategy to demonstrate the costs and what they will achieve with the funding. If possible, bids should also identify where more provision can be created across the domestic abuse landscape by leveraging in other sources of funding.</p> <p>Scoring system</p> <p><b>5 points:</b> strong proposals with very good evidence to show how the funding will support the delivery of the costing strategy including a breakdown of activities and costs. <b>3 points:</b> good evidence of value for money in respect of both accommodation-based services and other service provision. <b>1 point:</b> very limited or unclear evidence of value for money.</p>	<p>Up to 5</p>	<p>Government is required to ensure provision it funds is value for money – which means bids must demonstrate how they will provide genuinely additional provision and outcomes over and above current provision. Bids must demonstrate how they will provide both greater benefits and/or lower costs compared to existing provision.</p> <p>Proposals must set out the forecast outcomes in a way which allows us to determine their value. There are different ways you could do this, but they need to be quantifiable. You need to quantify the number of victims you will be assisting in refuges or accommodation based services with specialist support and confirm that these services meet the DCLG Quality Standards set out in Annex A as well as the numbers of victims you will be supporting in accessing provision. You must also state how many bed spaces in accommodation based provision will be provided by the funding.</p> <p>You may of course also describe how victims’ lives will be turned around by this intervention over the longer term, but our assessment will primarily be based on figures.</p> <p>DCLG may exclude any bid which does not show a likely benefit-cost ratio of at least 1, or which includes insufficient evidence for assessment of value for money, even if they score highly on other criteria.</p>
<p><u>Deliverability</u></p> <p>Scoring System</p> <p><b>5 points:</b> strong proposals with</p>		<p>Bidders need to set out and demonstrate that they</p>

<p>evidence of high certainty of delivery by 31 March 2016  <b>3 points:</b> good proposals with satisfactory certainty of delivery by 31 March 2016.  <b>1 point:</b> no or very limited or unclear certainty of delivery by 31 March 2016</p>		<p>will be able deliver their proposal and meet its objectives by 31 March 2016</p>
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We will also be interested in bids that show where additional funding will be provided by the authority and partners.

**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 around £100,000 maximum per Partnership bid. Bids should be based on provision of funding up to 31 March 2016 only and should indicate how the service provision will be sustained beyond March 2016. All proposals must involve work being delivered in 2015-16.

**Proposals must set out the total amount of funding sought** and indicate how much will be spent by each member of the partnership on 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 Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003, subject to HM Treasury consent.

## Supplementary Guidance on Domestic Abuse and Homelessness

### DCLG Quality Standards

#### Bids must conform to the DCLG 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.

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# Application Form: Funding to help support victims of domestic abuse 2015/16

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

Day-to-day contact for follow up queries (name, email and phone number):

Names of partners:

Amount of grant sought:

Profile of bid 2015-16:

	15/16
Support	
Staff costs	
Other	
Total	

How many victims will be helped – adhering to the standards set out in Annex A – by the funding ?

Brief Summary of your bid

Title and description of bid – what is the proposal and what are the aims?.

How will it achieve them?

What resources are requested and what for?

How many bed spaces<sup>1</sup>, will the proposal provide. Please state for each of:

<sup>1</sup> Number of victims units (for victims and their children).



- refuges,
- sanctuary schemes,
- dispersed housing (with support) ;
- other accommodation-based provision (please describe)?

What support will the proposal provide to help victims who may have difficulty accessing provision?

What mechanisms are in place to ensure that named domestic abuse service providers in the bid receive the appropriate funding?

**Please note that we are asking for information on levels of current provision by Thursday 10 September, and for your full bid by 1 October.**

**Supporting evidence**

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**Bids must provide clear evidence that they meet each of the criteria in the prospectus, i.e. that they will fill geographical gaps in refuge or other accommodation based provision, that they will meet the DCLG quality standards, and that they demonstrate innovative approaches, meet need identified in local strategies,, are the product of partnership working, and provide quantifiable indicators of value for money, and that the proposal in the bid is deliverable in 2015/2016. Your statement must cover how the bid meets these criteria. :**

**Proposals must also answer the following question :**

- Did you receive funding from the £10m Fund and if so, how much and what for?

**Criteria for the Domestic Abuse Fund – please provide a statement addressing all of the criteria, including the points set out below .**

1) Criterion on filling geographical gaps in provision (please answer by 10 September, see Annex B)

- What accommodation-based services do you currently provide for victims of domestic abuse?. Please break this down into:
  - number of refuge bedspaces;
  - Of these refuges bedspaces, how many are specialist (ie meeting the DCLG quality standards attached)
  - number of sanctuary scheme installations;
  - number of bedspaces with floating support;
  - number of bedspaces in other accommodation-based provision (please detail)
- How much is spent on the above provision in your area per annum (where possible please break this down into the categories above, and the sources of funding)?
- What is your best estimate of how many bed spaces are currently needed in your area?
- What is this based on? How do you assess demand for bed spaces?
- How many bedspaces will you need in your area in the future (to 2020, or as far as you are able to forecast)? What is the future demand for refuge bed spaces and accommodation based services in your local area?
- How have you assessed this demand?
- What plans do you have to address any shortfalls in provision and how does this proposal help?
- What is the balance between general and specialist accommodation based services?
- What support do you give groups who are currently struggling to access the right provision, for example, some BME communities and victims with specialist and complex needs?.
- What currently happens to a victim who is turned away from accommodation

based support; how is their subsequent journey mapped out and what support is given to them?

- What service provision is offered to victims before entering and on leaving refuge based accommodation?

**2) Criterion on meeting DCLG quality standards**

How will you ensure that your proposals meets the DCLG Quality Standards ?  
Who will take responsibility for ensuring these standards are met?

**3) Criterion on meeting the local strategy for tackling domestic abuse**

How will your proposal meet the requirements and ambition of your local strategy?  
Please describe

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- **4) Criterion on Partnership working and working across Local Authority boundaries**

- Which other organisations do you work in partnership with locally to tackle domestic abuse?
- What are your proposals for further developing partnership working and how will this funding help build those relationships?
- What are your proposals, if any, for collaborating with other neighbouring local authorities in providing accommodation-based support with this funding?
- Do you currently provide accommodation based support to victims from other areas and what are the challenges in doing so?
- How will you use this fund to support victims across local authority boundaries and from areas other than your local authority?
- What are the major issues/challenges in the commissioning of services? How will you use partnership working to overcome them?

- **5) Criterion on Value for money and additionality**

You need to be able to show that your proposal delivers value for money. That does not necessarily mean a cheaper service, but one which delivers the appropriate outcome for each victim (recognising that each may have different needs, with different costs) at the most realistic cost. It must also

- be additional to the current service provided,
- must be quantified, and;
- should show, where possible, that benefits exceed costs and by how much.

If you are proposing an improved service, we would like to know how your proposal helps you to provide better services in a cost effective way. As we are also looking for innovation, we are willing to consider new approaches and for you to show value for money in different ways. For example, you might bid for a proposal which:

- Helps to reduce demand and therefore future costs
- Better links victims with the right type or level of service for them
- Delivers additional units at the standard price (filling gaps in provision)
- How will you capture the outputs and benefits gained from this funding and how will this feed into local area strategies and longer term sustainable solutions for domestic abuse?

- **6) Criterion on Deliverability in 2015/16**

- What assessment have you made of the level of resource and what measures are you putting into place to deliver the commitments set out in your bid beyond March 2016?
- How do you propose to continue the work funded through this bid (if

successful) after March 2016?

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Any other information which you wish to have taken into consideration in support of your bid

**Annex B – information on current provision and geographical gaps – for return by 10 September**

**Completed bid forms (including signature by Local Authority lead partner(s) to be submitted by 5pm on Thursday 1 October. Both to be sent to :**

**[DomesticAbuse.Fund@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:DomesticAbuse.Fund@communities.gsi.gov.uk)**

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## DOMESTIC ABUSE FUND 2015/16

### ANNEX B - GAPS IN GEOGRAPHICAL PROVISION (CRITERION 1)

Please send in your answers to the questions below by **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2015**.

**The full application form should be returned by 1 October 2015**

Name of Local Authority .....

Officer's name and contact details .....

#### Information on current provision

- What accommodation-based services do you currently provide for victims of domestic abuse?. Please break this down into:
  - number of refuge bedspaces;
  - Of these refuges bedspaces, how many are specialist (ie meeting the DCLG quality standards attached)
  - number of sanctuary scheme installations;
  - number of bedspaces with floating support;
  - number of bedspaces in other accommodation-based provision (please detail)
  
- How much is spent on the above provision in your area per annum (where possible please break this down into the categories above, and the sources of funding)?
- What is your best estimate of how many bed spaces are currently needed in your area?
- What is this based on? How do you assess demand for bed spaces?
- How many bedspaces will you need in your area in the future (to 2020, or as far as you are able to forecast)? What is the future demand for refuge bed spaces and accommodation based services in your local area?
- How have you assessed this demand?
- What support do you give groups who are currently struggling to access the right provision, for example, some BME communities and victims with specialist and complex needs?

Thank you for providing this information which will be used both in support of your bid and to inform the DCLG/Home Office review of domestic abuse services.