



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

**2018/20 Fund for Domestic Abuse
Services, including refuge and other safe
accommodation, to help local areas meet
the Priorities for Domestic Abuse
Services**

Bidding Prospectus

July 2018
Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government



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Bidding Prospectus

Summary

1. Government is committed to doing everything we can to end domestic abuse. This MHCLG fund forms part of our wider response to address this priority issue. We recently consulted on what more can be done to protect domestic abuse victims and will be bringing forward a landmark Domestic Abuse Bill. MHCLG are also carrying out a review of how domestic abuse services are delivered locally across England. The review is being informed by an audit of provision of domestic abuse services across England, which will enable us to understand what impact services are having and to identify any gaps.
2. In our Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy¹ we set out our ambition to go further and faster to reform services to support earlier models of intervention with victims, perpetrators and their families, at the same time as maintaining crisis provision to meet the needs of women and girls suffering violence. Our fund will provide support to local areas to achieve this aim with a specific focus on domestic abuse services.
3. We recognise that men can also be victims of domestic abuse and our approach will be to benefit all victims. However, women are much more likely than men to be victims of high risk or severe domestic abuse, and therefore more in need of refuges and other forms of specialist accommodation based services. We expect our fund will primarily focus on the needs of women and children suffering violence as set out in our VAWG Strategy.
4. The VAWG: National Statement of Expectations² reinforces the importance of bringing local service providers together, understanding local needs, commissioning services accordingly, and how services are being provided to meet them, and setting out clear leadership and accountability for delivery.
5. Government is determined to ensure that no victim of domestic abuse is turned away from the support they need. Refuges and other forms of specialist accommodation-based services play a vital role in providing this support. We are looking for local areas to work collaboratively both with sector partners and across local authority boundaries to strengthen provision. To help meet this challenge, the Government will provide funding of up to £18.8 million over two years (2018-2020) to support the provision of accommodation-based support

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategy-to-end-violence-against-women-and-girls-2016-to-2020>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/violence-against-women-and-girls-national-statement-of-expectations>

services and the local reforms needed to meet the Priorities for Domestic Abuse Services.

6. In collaboration with sector partners, we have updated our Priorities for Domestic Abuse Services (see Annex B), setting out what local areas should be putting in place to ensure their response to domestic abuse is as collaborative, robust and effective as it can be. These now highlight the importance of best practice working and include the explicit expectation that local authorities should commission services that establish and continue effective, collaborative partnership working, including between commissioners and specialist domestic abuse providers. In addition, we have updated the range of diverse groups whose needs local authorities should respond to in commissioning services.
7. Our two year fund is available to local areas which demonstrate that they are taking steps to deliver these updated priorities. The fund is available for the provision of core support for refuges and specialist accommodation-based services, helping local areas ensure that no woman is turned away from the support she needs. Bids should demonstrate evidence-wide assessment of need, and take into account the particular needs of victims from isolated and/or marginalised communities/BAME backgrounds.
8. This fund will provide continuity and build upon best practice identified in the previous 2016/18 £20 million fund for domestic abuse services. This has created a number of successful partnerships between local authorities and we know that projects funded through this are already sharing best practice. Through our new fund we want local areas to come forward with bids that demonstrate collaboration with one another to ensure that partnerships are joining up across borders to meet the needs of victims who may flee to seek support, including and collaborate on securing specialist provision which serves a national need.
9. The Fund will operate for the 2018/20 financial years. We can only fund bids where work will be complete by 31 March 2020. We will require confirmation that approved funding will be allocated to the named provider(s) in your bid.
10. If you would like to discuss your proposals with the MHCLG Team please contact DomesticAbuse.Fund@communities.gsi.gov.uk and someone from the team will get in touch.

Responding to the Challenge

11. The Fund will support proposals for the provision of core support for refuges and other accommodation-based services, helping local areas ensure that no woman is turned away from the support she needs, and welcomes bids which

can demonstrate a) that there is a need for this type of support locally, and b) that the solution proposed is designed to meet the needs of victims. We recognise that victims of domestic abuse will have different needs – so your bid could be for specialist refuge places or for specific groups (i.e. for victims with mental health problems, substance abuse problems, or particular needs of different ethnic communities), or, where this best meets local need, other accommodation based services with specialist support, or other services that enable victims to access this support. We also recognise that there will be demand for some specialist services in particular local areas from across the country (e.g. refuges which cater for the needs of women from particular BAME communities) which serves a broader need.

12. Local areas will also need to ensure that provision is made for victims moving away from their home area and those moving into new areas due to abuse. We are looking to receive bids that bring together three or more local authorities working across boundaries to form regional hubs where appropriate.
13. We are open to a range of proposals from local partnerships that demonstrate how the needs of victims could be met through collaborative working across local authority boundaries to provide or support the provision of refuges or other accommodation-based support services with specialist support. We are also open to proposals for services which enable victims to access this accommodation-based provision or support delivered through outreach and community-based services.
14. We know that the multi-faceted and complex nature of domestic abuse means that it cannot be addressed by one agency alone. Bids must be put forward by a local authority, but clearly demonstrate their partnership arrangements with other local commissioners including PCCs and health partners, and local specialist domestic violence service providers. We are also 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 victims from isolated and/or marginalised communities and those victims with complex needs. 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 include more than one local authority, but with one leading the bid.
15. All bids must help deliver the local strategy for domestic abuse 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. Given that tackling domestic abuse and broader service reform is an explicit objective of the national

Troubled Families Programme we would also expect bids to articulate how any additional funding would contribute to the area's existing approach and vision.

Value for money

16. The Government is required to ensure that funding delivers value for money (vfm) – 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.
17. Proposals must set out the forecast outcomes in a way which allows us to determine their value by completing the attached vfm clarification form (Annex C). It is not the Government's intention in assessing value for money to favour low quality low cost services over high quality services, or generalist solutions over specialist. There are different ways you could do this, but they need to be quantifiable. You may suggest different types of service for different people, with different costs and benefits. These services need to meet the MHCLG Quality Standards set out in Annex A. Proposals should also meet the updated Priorities for Domestic Abuse Services as set out in Annex B.
18. The Government retains the right to reject a bid on the basis of insufficient information on value for money. We will reject bids which demonstrate poor value for money (costs exceed benefits).

Process

19. 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.
20. As well as addressing shortfalls and fostering service change, a further purpose of this fund is to provide Government with evidence of domestic abuse services and their outcomes for victims of abuse. This evidence will be used in the development of policy solutions to meet our commitment to ensure that no victim of domestic abuse is turned away from the support they need.
21. We need to learn from you and your partners how best to deliver services. So although we will not formally monitor each project we fund, MHCLG officials will be in contact to understand more about the progress of your work and will arrange visits to a number of projects. We would also like you 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.

22. There will be one bidding round to allocate resource funding of up to £18.8 million which must be spent by 31 March 2020.

How to apply

Applicants are required to submit bids no later than **5pm on Friday 17th August to:**

DomesticAbuse.Fund@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. 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.

Assessment of applications

Bids will be assessed by MHCLG and other Government department 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>Meet the MHCLG Quality Standards as set out in Annex A</u>	Pass/Fail	To make sure that the proposed services are of sufficient quality to meet victims' needs
<u>Meet the Priorities for Domestic Abuse Services</u>	Pass/Fail	To stimulate service change to meet the Priorities for Domestic Abuse Services.
<u>Innovative and sustainable solutions</u> Evidence of innovative and sustainable ways of delivering through partnership bids. Filling of domestic abuse services, including refuge and	Up to 5	Successful bidders should demonstrate that they have taken an innovative and sustainable approach to tackling domestic abuse providing clear pathways and referral routes for victims. Bids should evidence transparency of funding to encourage the funding following the victim rather than a particular local

other 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 vulnerabilities, overlapping service use needs or isolation

Scoring system

5 points: strong proposals with very good evidence of sustainable approaches to address need for domestic abuse services, including refuge and accommodation based services, and other service provision identified by local need.

An additional 5 points: strong proposals for leading change. For more experienced local authorities this would be evidenced through the provision of peer support to local authorities with less capacity.

3 points: good evidence of domestic abuse service proposals, including refuge and accommodation based services,

authority.

<p>1 point: very limited or no evidence for domestic abuse service based proposals, including refuge and accommodation based services, actual or proposed.</p>		
<p><u>Supporting areas' local strategies on domestic abuse and setting out longer term plans for sustainability.</u></p> <p>Scoring system</p> <p>5 points: 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>3 points: good evidence of the above</p> <p>1 point: very limited or no evidence of the above</p>	<p>Up to 5</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 2020.</p>
<p><u>Partnership working with domestic abuse service providers and across Local Authority Boundaries.</u></p> <p>Scoring system</p> <p>5 points: strong partnership working exists or is proposed on a robust and evidenced based project plan with very</p>	<p>Up to 5</p>	<p>Successful bidders must demonstrate that they have worked with under-represented groups, such as those with complex needs and those from isolated and/or marginalised/BAME groups to identify and respond to local need, in preparing the bid. Partnerships must ensure that there is full representation for providers meeting specialist and BAME needs.</p> <p>We want to see such partnership bids demonstrating working across Local Authority boundaries to meet identified need and break down barriers to service delivery,</p>

<p>clear milestones, very good analysis of need/risk and very effective mitigation measures identified.</p> <p>3 points: good proposals for partnership working.</p> <p>1 point: very limited or no evidence of partnership working, actual or proposed.</p>		<p>including accommodation based service delivery, for those victims from outside of their area. Bids may include one or more local authorities working in partnership or a number of local authorities setting up a regional hub (with one being nominated as the lead authority).</p> <p>Partnerships must demonstrate an effective partnership management plan, including commitment to deliver on agreements and contracts made between agencies.</p> <p>Given that tackling domestic abuse and broader service reform is an explicit objective of the national Troubled Families Programme we would expect bids to articulate how any additional funding would contribute to the area's existing approach and vision.</p> <p>We would also be interested in bids that demonstrate leading change through the provision of peer support and sharing best practice across local authority boundaries.</p>
<p><u>Inclusion of specific provision for BAME victims and those from isolated/marginalised communities</u></p> <p>Scoring system</p> <p>5 points: strong proposal demonstrating strong evidence of inclusion of specific provision for BAME communities</p> <p>3 points: good evidence of inclusion of provision for BAME communities</p> <p>1 point: very limited or no evidence of specific provision for</p>	<p>Up to 5</p>	<p>Bids should set out how their proposal meets the needs of those from isolated and/or marginalised communities and BAME groups who have struggled to access services.</p> <p>We want to see bids that have not only considered generic provision but have also considered the needs of those from isolated/marginalised communities and BAME victims of domestic abuse.</p> <p>Whilst proposals must reflect local needs, local areas must take into account service provision in their areas which serves a broader national client group i.e. being the only refuge across the country for a particular BAME group.</p>

<p>BAME communities, actual or proposed.</p>		
<p><u>Inclusion of specific provision for victims with complex needs</u></p> <p>Scoring system</p> <p>5 points: strong proposal demonstrating strong evidence of inclusion of specific provision for complex needs</p> <p>3 points: good evidence of inclusion of provision for complex needs</p> <p>1 point: very limited or no evidence of specific provision for complex needs, actual or proposed.</p>	<p>Up to 5</p>	<p>We want to see bids that have not only considered generic provision but have also considered the needs of domestic abuse victims with additional complex, often multiple and overlapping areas of need.</p> <p>Bids should set out how their proposal meets additional complex service use needs, which can include substance misuse (drugs/alcohol) and mental health issues.</p>
<p><u>Value for money and additionally</u></p> <p>Evidence for value for money. Bids should give a full 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>Up to 5</p>	<p>It is essential that Government programmes show value for money (that the benefits of an action exceed the costs) – which means bids must demonstrate how they will provide genuinely additional provision and outcomes over and above current provision.</p> <p>Bid 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 services and confirm that these services meet the MHCLG Quality Standards set out in Annex A. If relevant, you must state how many bed spaces in accommodation based provision will be provided by the funding.</p> <p>Bid proposals should also be clear about the</p>

<p>Scoring system</p> <p>5 points: strong proposal demonstrating very good evidence to show how the funding will support the delivery of the cost strategy, including a breakdown of costs and activities.</p> <p>3 points: good evidence of value for money in respect of both accommodation based services and service reform.</p> <p>1 point: very limited or unclear evidence of value for money</p>		<p>benefits/outcomes of funding for service reform.</p> <p>It is not the Government's intention in assessing value for money to favour low quality low cost services over high quality high cost ones, or generalist solutions over specialist. Bidders may suggest different types of service for different people, with different costs and benefits.</p> <p>Government retains the right to reject a bid on the basis of insufficient information on VFM. We will reject bids which demonstrate poor VFM (costs exceed benefits).</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 from the relevant Chief Executive.

Costs and funding arrangements

MHCLG would expect to provide around £100,000 maximum per individual partnership bid, but will consider bids of more than £100,000 which proactively work across a number of local authority boundaries. Bids should be based on provision of funding up to 31 March 2020 only and should indicate how the service provision will be sustained beyond March 2020. All proposals must involve work being delivered in 2018-20.

Proposals must set out the total amount of funding sought and give a high level breakdown of costs, including planned timing. Costs and outputs for 2018-19 and 2019-20 should be distinguished.

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.

Annex A: MHCLG Quality Standards

Bids must conform to the MHCLG 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 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

- 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.

Annex B: Priorities for Domestic Abuse Services

Our Priorities for Domestic Abuse Services apply to Local Authorities as the lead accountable bodies working with local multi-agency partnerships in response to locally driven change and service reform and ensuring that all local partners are involved to ensure that victims of domestic abuse receive the support they need when they need it.

Context

Domestic abuse can be psychological, physical, sexual, economic and/or emotional. It has devastating impact, and can affect anyone regardless of their age, gender, race, religion, class, sexual orientation and marital status. We are determined that everyone should receive the support they need. We recognise that both women and men can be victims, however we know that a disproportionate number of victims are women, especially in the most severe cases.³ In our 2016/20 Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy, we set out our ambition that service reform should go further and faster to meet the needs of women and girls suffering violence.

We know that there are real challenges to be overcome in achieving this ambition. Much domestic abuse is hidden, whilst many victims of domestic abuse need to flee from their local area to access services and stay safe. Domestic abuse often reveals wider experiences of gendered violence, and multiple disadvantage. A review of domestic abuse service provision in the summer of 2015 by the (then named) Department of Communities and Local Government and Home Office found that services struggle to meet the needs of some victims of domestic abuse, namely those (i) with additional complex needs⁴ (ii) from isolated and/or marginalised communities or (iii) BAME victims.

We are learning about the extent of these challenges from the sector, as well as wider challenges faced by local areas and providers including the sustainability of services, the need for effective partnership working, including across local boundaries, and for local specialist service provision to ensure every victim receives the support they need. However, we know that some local authorities and

³ Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) data indicate that the majority of victims are women. This is why our approach is framed around violence against women and girls.

⁴ Complex needs include a range of often multiple and overlapping vulnerabilities and service use needs including mental ill-health, alcohol and substance misuse, homelessness, being part of a minority group or marginalised community (e.g. BAME, LGBT+, older and young (aged 16-18) victims of domestic abuse), having insecure immigration status, being part of an isolated community, living with a disability and/or involvement with the police and criminal justice system.

partnerships have excellent practice in taking on these challenges and we want all local areas to rise to the level of the best.

Our Priorities for Domestic Abuse Services were launched in November 2016 alongside our two year fund for domestic abuse services, where 80 projects covering 258 local authorities in England received a share of our £20 million fund to support victims of domestic abuse.

Learning from local authorities, experts and our sector partners, we have updated these Priorities to set out what local areas should be all putting in place to ensure their response to domestic abuse is as collaborative, robust and effective as it can be. Our strategic vision remains ambitious, and we will only achieve it by working together with you to ensure change at a local level.

The Government is providing support to help local commissioners fulfil these expectations through a two year fund for domestic abuse services, which includes refuges, to meet the Priorities for Domestic Abuse Services.

We expect local authorities to commission services that:

- Ensure that no victim is turned away from the support they need at the time they need it, including those with children, through understanding the risks they face and the full extent of their need to keep them safe and promote their long term safety and wellbeing.
- Put the victim first, by providing flexible services that meet their needs, including enabling them to make their own choices and to live independently and safely as soon as possible.
- Respond to the needs of diverse groups, including those with complex needs, those from isolated and/or marginalised communities, BAME, LGBT, disabled, young (aged 16-18) and older victims, offenders, and children of victims.
- Meet the needs of victims from within and outside the local area, recognising that many victims move from their local area to be safe.
- Take a strategic approach to service commissioning, based on data about need and evidence of what works.
- Establish and continue effective, collaborative partnership working, including between commissioners and specialist domestic abuse services.
- Be led by clear, accountable local leadership, joining up across agencies and areas to provide better services and pooling budgets for maximum flexibility.

Here is a checklist of questions to clarify the steps to take in meeting these priorities.

Ensures that no victim is turned away from the support they need at the time they need it, including those with children, through understanding the risks they face and the full extent of their need to keep them safe and promote their long term safety and wellbeing.

- Have you taken steps to raise local awareness of all forms of domestic abuse, and available services and support in the area, appropriately targeted towards diverse groups?
- Have you ensured services are provided in locations and ways which are accessible to victims e.g. translation services, British Sign Language interpreters, wheelchair access?
- Do all your local partners understand the full extent of the needs of diverse victims, including younger (aged 16-18), older, BAME, LGBT, disabled victims, offenders, those with multiple, complex needs, and those with children, and do you all share an ambitious goal of the immediate and long term safety and wellbeing of victims?
- Have you sought advice and support from the independent, national second-tier ending Violence against Women and Girls Organisations?
- Do front line professionals in your area, including universal services as well as specialist providers, recognise when victims need help and provide them with support they need and offer them routes to appropriate, including (other) specialist support?
- Do you provide a forum for feedback and listen to what victims say they need to help them to be safe and to recover?

Puts the victim first, by providing flexible services that meet their needs, including enabling them to make their own choices and to live independently and safely as soon as possible.

- Are you providing clear but flexible pathways and choices for victims from danger to safety and independence?
- Does this include planning for and provision of stable, long-term, accommodation, or community-based support to enable victims who are safe to do so to stay in their own homes?

- Are you providing victims with routes back into the community, education and employment, such as life skills, access to training and other development opportunities to move towards independence?
- Do you draw on service user experience when you design and commission services?

Responds to the needs of diverse groups, including those with complex needs, those from isolated and/or marginalised communities, BAME, LGBT, disabled, young (aged 16-18) and older victims, offenders, and children of victims.

- Do you provide services that meet the needs of BAME, LGBT, disabled, young (aged 16-18) and older victims, offenders, and children of victims?
- Are the services you provide gender-informed?
- Do you understand the law under the Equality Act for single sex provisions⁵, how best to offer support to individual transgender victims who may seek support, and are you aware of services that you might refer a transgender victim onto if a service did not feel able to offer provision?
- Do you provide services which meet the needs of those with multiple and complex needs?
- Have you taken steps to understand the barriers that prevent victims from isolated and/or marginalised communities from accessing and using services? Do you know what they are? If not have you asked what the barriers are?
- Do you use the expertise and knowledge of specialist services/workers to deliver a multi-agency approach to identify and deal with barriers to access to services?
- Do you provide training for frontline workers to enable them to respond effectively to the needs of diverse groups, including by working with specialist providers?

⁵ Some service providers offer trans inclusive services, while others ensure that if they are not able to do so, trans people are offered alternative provisions.

Under the Equality Act 2010, single or separate sex service providers are permitted to provide a different service for trans people or even exclude trans people from single and separate sex provisions where proportionate, for example if they can show that the trans person's presence would prevent effective delivery of the service to the rest of their customers or clients. These service providers can include domestic violence or rape crisis services.

Please see <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/notes/division/3/16/20/7> (points 739 and 740)

Meets the needs of victims from within and outside the local area, recognising that many victims move from their local area to be safe

- Have you opened provision to victims from outside your local area, recognising that victims from your area are likely to be supported elsewhere?
- Do you make exemptions to local area restrictions or caps to support non- local victims within your funding and commissioning processes?
- Are you collaborating with other local authorities to allow victims easy movement from one area to another whilst ensuring their safety?
- Are you joining up with other areas to secure specialist services, looking at commissioning these in partnership, or on a sub-regional level?
- Are you working in partnership to deliver services in an integrated way with other specialist violence and sexual violence services?

Takes a strategic approach to service commissioning, based on data about need and evidence of what works

- Do you have robust, local data that gives an accurate picture of local need, drawing on data from specialist organisations and not solely rely on data from statutory agencies?
- Do you plan your local strategy to meet need on the basis of data, evidence of what works based on outcomes data from providers and outcomes of risk and needs assessments?
- Have you considered the Homelessness Code of Guidance, including guidance on providing homelessness services to people who have experienced, or are at risk of, domestic violence or abuse, and local VAWG strategies in developing your local domestic abuse strategy?⁶
- Have you agreed an outcomes framework to measure how your strategy improves outcomes for victims, and do you use and share these outcomes when planning commissioning cycles?
- Is your commissioning informed by victims' voices and do you have a process for measuring victim satisfaction?
- Do you have a process for independent scrutiny, holding local decision making to account?

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homelessness-code-of-guidance-for-local-authorities>

- Do you consider long-term sustainability of service providers in addition to funding cycles?
- Are you monitoring and evaluating the response to victims in your area to ensure the quality and safety of service provision and the outcomes for women and children?

Establishes and continues effective, collaborative partnership working, including between commissioners and specialist domestic abuse services.

- Do you consider smaller and/or specialist providers when commissioning services?
- Do you acknowledge different commissioning regions and tiers when commissioning services?
- Do you deliver on commitments made in partnership agreements, contracts and bids for funding?
- Do you have and maintain clear lines of communication with partner agencies?

Be led by clear, accountable local leadership, joining up across agencies and areas to provide better services, and pooling budgets for maximum flexibility

- Do you have a single accountable lead to bring together all local service partners to assess need and commission services to reflect this?
- Are you pooling funding streams across agencies to maximise the use of resources and outcomes for diverse victims?
- Are you ensuring an effective multi-agency response to domestic abuse to meet victims' needs and achieve positive outcomes as soon as possible?
- Have you got an open, inclusive and transparent decision making process and an appeals process?
- Do you ensure that your own organisation has up to date domestic abuse policies, clear referral pathways and best practice in supporting staff who are victims or perpetrators of domestic abuse?

Annex C: VFM Clarification

Applicant name and ref:

Please explain how your proposal is **additional** to the services you currently offer?

[Type a quote from the document or the summary of an interesting point. You can position the text box anywhere in the document. Use the Drawing Tools tab to change the formatting of the pull quote text box.]

Cost Benefit Analysis (If data available):

Costs	2018/19	2019/20	Total
E.G. Staff Costs			
E.G. Training			
E.G. Marketing materials			
Total			

Benefits

In this section you should try to quantify the economic benefits of your intervention – examples would be, savings to other public services and the wider Local Authority offer.

For example, if on average, one victim uses several services for which you can estimate a cost. Preventing them requiring that service leads to a saving, equally, there is an economic benefit from freeing up additional refuge space (based on

either the cost of the alternative, or simply using the cost of a refuge space for a period).

Savings	Period (i.e. Savings anticipated over a number of years)	Monetary Value
Reduced demand for A&E treatment	2 years	£2,000
Reduced demand for DV services in Local Authorities		
<i>Total per person supported</i>		£xxxx
Total per person supported * number of people supported		£xxxxx

***If you have a number of interventions, you may want to complete this table for each one.*

BCR = Total from benefits table/Total from Costs table

You are aiming to achieve a BCR in excess of 1.

Other Economic Benefits

Other benefits are not quantifiable, but are a material consideration, please describe those here: (E.g. greater community cohesion through identification of hard to reach vulnerable people).

[Type a quote from the document or the summary of an interesting point. You can position the text box anywhere in the document. Use the Drawing Tools tab to change the formatting of the pull quote text box.]

This is intended as a guidance note only, although MHCLG are happy to receive returns in this template. If you have any queries please contact DomesticAbuse.Fund@communities.gsi.gov.uk, or contact one of your local finance officers who should be able to assist.

Application Form:

2018/20 Fund for Domestic Abuse Services, including Refuge, to help local areas meet the Priorities for Domestic Abuse Services

Name, address & contact details of applicant lead local authority:		
Names of partners:		
Amount of grant sought:		
Profile of bid 2018/20:		
	18/19	19/20
Support		
Service reform costs		
Staff costs		
Other		
Total		
How many victims will be helped – adhering to the standards set out in Annex A – by the funding		
Summary of Bid (Bid proposals must set out what the local demand is for – refuges, or any other accommodation type, service improvement to meet the Priorities for Domestic Abuse Services, and how the bid addresses it)		
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 ⁷ , will the proposal provide and will these be provided in refuges, Sanctuary schemes, dispersed housing (with support) or other housing provision?		
What mechanisms are in place to ensure that named domestic abuse service providers in the bid receive the appropriate funding?		
What service change will you put into place to deliver the priorities for domestic abuse services?		

⁷ Number of victims units (for victims and their children).

Supporting evidence

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 accommodation based support do you provide to victims from other areas and what are the challenges in doing so?
- What actions are you proposing to take to support victims across local authority boundaries and from areas other than your local authority?

Inclusion of specific provision for BME victims and those from isolated/marginalised communities

- What actions are you taking to ensure that smaller BAME organisations are included in bid proposals?
- What is your proposal for assessing the needs of isolated and /or marginalised communities in your area and coming into your area?
- What actions are you taking to make provision for local specialist support and protect specialist services of importance beyond the local area?

Value for money and additionality

- How many domestic abuse victims do you currently support and what is the current cost per victim for general/specialist support?
- What more will you be able to achieve with this additional funding?
- 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?
- What estimate have you made of the costs incurred for example if staff are hired with the funding, the approximate annual cost per person and dates of employment?
- 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 2020?

Deliverability

- 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 beyond March 2020?

Completed forms (including signature by Local Authority lead partner(s) to be submitted by 5pm 17th August 2018 to:

DomesticAbuse.Fund@communities.gsi.gov.uk