

Best practice in implementing Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act: evaluation insights



All needs are best met if support in safe accommodation:

fits personal / household / cultural requirements

includes **flexible support** from a named key worker

includes **practical support** on arrival and for building independence

includes **emotional support** for wellbeing and mental health

offers **financial capability guidance** for future independence



Children and young people's needs are best met when:

they have **dedicated children's support** (not just as part of their parent's support)

support is available in **different forms** - informal, structured and off-site

they can **access support workers** across all safe accommodation settings

there is **specific support** for those with additional or multiple needs

they can access extended and age-appropriate **mental health support**



Engage

Keep survivors at the centre:

- throughout planning, delivery, collaboration and review
- by engaging with adults directly
- by engaging children and young people inclusively



Deliver

Meeting victim-survivors' needs relies on:

- providing a range of accessible support across settings
- providing dedicated support for children of all ages
- responding to survivors' individual characteristics



Review

Review support in safe accommodation across:

- access by survivors from different groups
- all survivors' experiences and outcomes
- indications of long-term impacts



Plan

Plan and commission to meet needs by:

- recognising diversity of survivors, including outside area
- recognising children's own needs as survivors
- including by and for service provision



Collaborate

Multi-agency collaboration fosters and maintains support through:

- Local Partnership Boards having broad, senior and consistent engagement
- including housing associations and other housing providers
- provision of regular, up-to-date staff training

For more information on the evaluation see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-duty-for-support-in-safe-accommodation-evaluation>



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government



Children's support

Meet children's support needs with:

- dedicated children's support workers in all settings
- specific support for children with additional needs, including mental health needs

Joint approach

Anticipate and meet all survivors' needs by:

- co-ordinating with neighbouring local authorities on needs assessments, strategies and commissioning
- monitoring and evaluating delivery and outcomes

Local directories

Make local support clear with comprehensive, updated information on options so survivors can make informed choices and professionals can signpost

Commissioning

Increase diversity of support provision by making requirements and processes accessible to small specialist providers and By and For services

Mental health training

Improve day-to-day support for mental health with mental health first aid training for staff in safe accommodation

Monitoring outcomes

Improve understanding of what works for survivors by assessing how best to measure the impact of support through standardised outcome measurements and tools to develop a comparable evidence base

Financial capability

Extend support for survivors' independence by offering guidance on financial management through voluntary-sector expert providers

Sanctuary schemes

Assess how the duty works in sanctuary schemes by researching how the duty is used to support survivors and how support needs are best met in these settings

