



# **Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Services for Bristol**

**Draft Commissioning Strategy  
2022-2027**

**Contents**

- 1. Foreword by Christina Gray, Director of Communities & Public Health..... 4
- 2. Introduction ..... 4
  - 2.1. Our Vision..... 4
  - 2.2. Background and Purpose ..... 5
    - 2.2.1. Legislative Context..... 6
    - 2.2.2. The Challenge..... 7
  - 2.3. Governance and Decision Making..... 7
- 3. Methodology and principles ..... 9
  - 3.1 Method ..... 9
- 4. Needs Assessment and Stakeholder Engagement..... 9
  - 4.1. Information to inform the commissioning process has been drawn from a number of sources including: ..... 9
    - 4.1.1. Bristol 2019 Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Needs Assessment.. 10
    - 4.1.2. Early engagement events, survey stakeholder engagement and service user consultation..... 10
    - 4.1.3. The Mayoral Commission 2021..... 11
    - 4.1.4. Needs assessment for Sexual Abuse and Assault (SAAS) therapeutic pathways in the South West 2021 ..... 11
    - 4.1.5. The Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment in response to the DA Act (Davis and Associates, 2021)..... 11
- 5. Current Contracts..... 12
  - 5.1. Current Contracts and Expenditure – in scope..... 12
  - 5.2. Out of scope ..... 12
  - 5.3. Additional services that have been funded in 21/22 as a result of funding made available because of the DA Act ..... 13
- 6. Commissioning Proposals 2022-2027 ..... 13
  - 6.1. Domestic Abuse Act funding for accommodation-based support ..... 13
  - 6.2. Proposal to work towards joint commissioning of sexual violence services across the area..... 13
  - 6.3. Financial Envelope ..... 13
- 7. Commissioning Model ..... 14
  - 7.1. Division of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence work into four strands ..... 14
  - 7.2. Expectations for all strands ..... 15
  - 7.3. Tendering approaches and allocation of resources..... 16
  - 7.4. Procurement Timetable ..... 16

Appendices..... 17

Appendix 1: Communications Strategy ..... 17

Appendix 2: Equality Impact Assessment ..... 17

Appendix 3: Report on findings from the Public Consultation..... 17

Appendix 4: Current contracts and expenditure in scope ..... 17

Appendix 5: Glossary ..... 18

References ..... 20

Draft

## 1. Foreword by Christina Gray, Director of Communities & Public Health

It is my pleasure to present the draft domestic abuse and sexual violence commissioning strategy for 2022-2027.

Preventing and reducing domestic abuse and sexual violence is a number one priority for Bristol as a city. Cross council, cross city work includes the provision of a wide range of support services including accommodation-based support, outreach services, telephone support, services for male survivors of domestic abuse and for sex workers experiencing abuse, with an increasing focus on children as victims in their own right. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 has ensured that this issue is also now a high national priority.

Many different services, both statutory and voluntary, work to support families and individuals affected by domestic abuse. These services engage with the complex and often chronic nature of domestic abuse and collaborate to challenge it. There is no one single agency that can solve domestic abuse - this requires a full multiagency approach to solve the problems created and reduce the demand present within domestic abuse. There are many reasons behind domestic abuse that require the involvement of a multitude of partners including victims and survivors as experts by experience, local authorities, support agencies, voluntary sector, police, health and key partners.

We will work as a partnership to ensure that those at risk of, or experiencing domestic abuse in Bristol, have the support and service provision that they need. No person should experience domestic abuse, and through this strategy and its clear commitments, we will work together to strengthen our service provision and to make sure we are learning from the latest research and understanding of what works best to continually improve the effectiveness of how our services tackle domestic abuse and sexual violence across Bristol.

## 2. Introduction

### 2.1. Our Vision

The One City Plan<sup>i</sup> sets out a clear goal for Bristol: that by 2050 “**Bristol will be a city free from domestic abuse and gender inequality.**”

The following principles in relation to providing support for individuals affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence were agreed during a series of workshops as part of the Bristol Mayoral Commission on Domestic Abuse<sup>ii</sup> which took place in the summer of 2020:

- We will start with you and what’s right for you
- There are a range of support services available and ways in which we can build safety with you. There will always be a person available to talk to you and help
- If you have children, we will work with you to support you, to help you care for your children and keep them safe
- It’s your home and we want you to be able to stay in your home, which means if you want the person who is hurting, scaring or controlling you to be told to leave and not return, we will take action so that you can be safe

- If staying in your home isn't be right for you, or you need a safe home to go to, we will do everything we can to help you to make that happen. Your physical and psychological safety are important to us
- In every corner of our city, we will work to eliminate sexual violence and abuse, and we will support survivors to feel safe, to recover, and to thrive
- Domestic abuse and sexual violence are everybody's business – we all have a role to play in making sure Bristol is a zero-tolerance city where domestic abuse and sexual violence are not tolerated, and victims and survivors are supported.

## **What is Domestic Abuse?**

Domestic abuse causes significant harm to individuals, children, families, and communities.

This strategy adopts the Government definition of domestic abuse which is outlined in the 2021 Domestic Abuse Act<sup>iii</sup>.

Central government consulted in March 2018 on a new statutory definition of domestic abuse to ensure that it is properly understood, considered unacceptable and actively challenged across statutory agencies and in public attitudes. The proposed definition expanded on the existing Government non-statutory definition by including the concept of economic abuse rather than simply financial abuse<sup>iv</sup>.

According to the Domestic Abuse Act, behaviour by a person ("A") towards another person ("B") is "domestic abuse" if A and B are each aged 16 or over and are personally connected and the behaviour is abusive. Behaviour is "abusive" if it consists of any of the following:

- Physical or sexual abuse
- Controlling or coercive behaviour
- Violent or threatening behaviour
- Economic abuse
- Psychological, emotional or other abuse.

## **What is sexual violence?**

Sexual violence is the general term we use to describe any kind of unwanted sexual act or activity, including rape, sexual assault, sexual abuse, and many others.<sup>v</sup>

## **2.2. Background and Purpose**

This commissioning strategy sets out proposals for the procurement of domestic abuse and sexual violence services for Bristol.

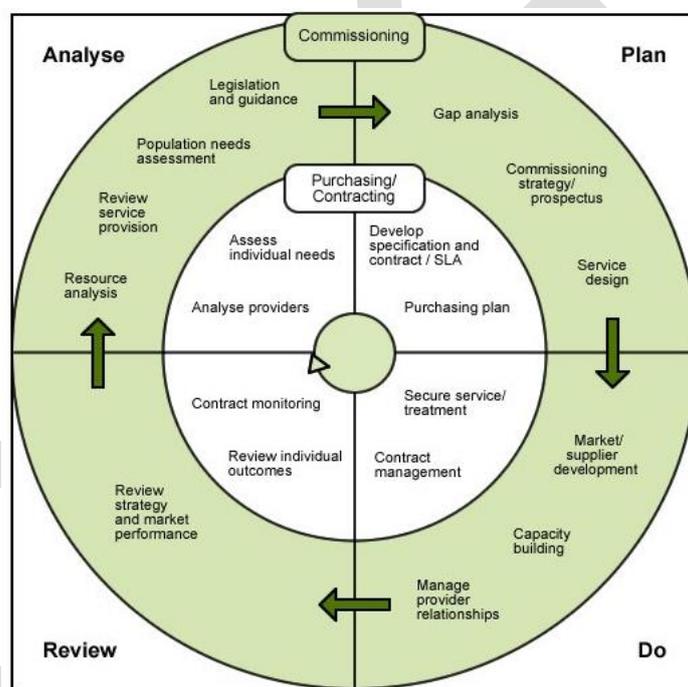
Bristol City Council is re-commissioning domestic abuse and sexual violence services with a view to putting new contracts in place at the start of October 2022.

Specialist domestic abuse and sexual violence services form a central part of the cities ambition to become a zero-tolerance city for domestic abuse.

The last commissioning process for services to support those affected by domestic abuse and/or sexual violence took place during a period from 2015 to 2016, at that time contracts were put in place for a period of three years and those have since been extended. Additional funding from the Domestic Abuse Act is enabling the expansion of some aspects of service provision for those affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence in Bristol.

These services will be commissioned and procured by the Public Health team, following Bristol City Council’s ‘Enabling Commissioning Framework’ (Fig.1). This is the agreed four stage commissioning cycle that has been adapted from the Institute for Public Care joint commissioning model. The approach will enable Bristol City Council to comply with current procurement law and UK Public Contract Regulations 2015 and provide assurance that it is commissioning services in line with best practice.

**Figure 1: Bristol City Council Enabling Commissioning Framework**



### 2.2.1. Legislative Context

#### The Domestic Abuse Act 2021

The draft Domestic Abuse Bill achieved Royal Assent in April 2021 and is now enshrined in law as the Domestic Abuse Act. The Act is intended to improve the response to domestic abuse as follows:

- **Protect and support victims** – to enhance the safety of victims and the support they receive
- **Transform the justice process** – to provide support to victims throughout the justice process and an effective response to perpetrators to end the cycle of abuse
- **Improve performance** – to drive consistency and better performance in the response to domestic abuse
- **Promote awareness** – put domestic abuse at the top of everybody’s agenda.

The Domestic Abuse Act (2021) also positions children as direct victims in their own right for the first time. That means any reference within the Act to a victim of domestic abuse includes a reference to a child who sees or hears, or experiences the effects of, the abuse (and is related to the victim or perpetrator).

**The Act** places a duty on local authorities in England to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation.

- Assess the need for accommodation-based domestic abuse support for all victims in their area, including those who require cross-border support
- Develop and publish a strategy for the provision of such support to cover their locality, having regard to the needs assessment
- Give effect to the strategy (through commissioning / de-commissioning decisions)
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy.

### 2.2.2. The Challenge

- To commission services that provide flexible, innovative and good quality support to victims of domestic and sexual abuse building on learning from the pandemic
- To ensure that there is a clear pathway that enables survivors to engage with the support they need at the right time.

### 2.3. Governance and Decision Making

**The Bristol Domestic and Sexual Abuse Services Collaborative Commissioning Group** will lead the review, redesign and commissioning of Public Health /local authority funded domestic and sexual abuse services for the City of Bristol. The commissioning of these services was delayed due to Covid-19 and current services had contracts extended. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 also has funding attached. Commissioning decisions relating to this funding are also overseen by this group.

The terms of reference for the group state that the **aims** of the Commissioning Group are:

- To oversee the commissioning of domestic abuse and sexual violence services within Bristol and to ensure that there is service continuity
- To ensure that commissioned services complement existing services commissioned by other organisations for example, NHS England, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner the Clinical Commissioning Group, Probation Services and National Lottery.

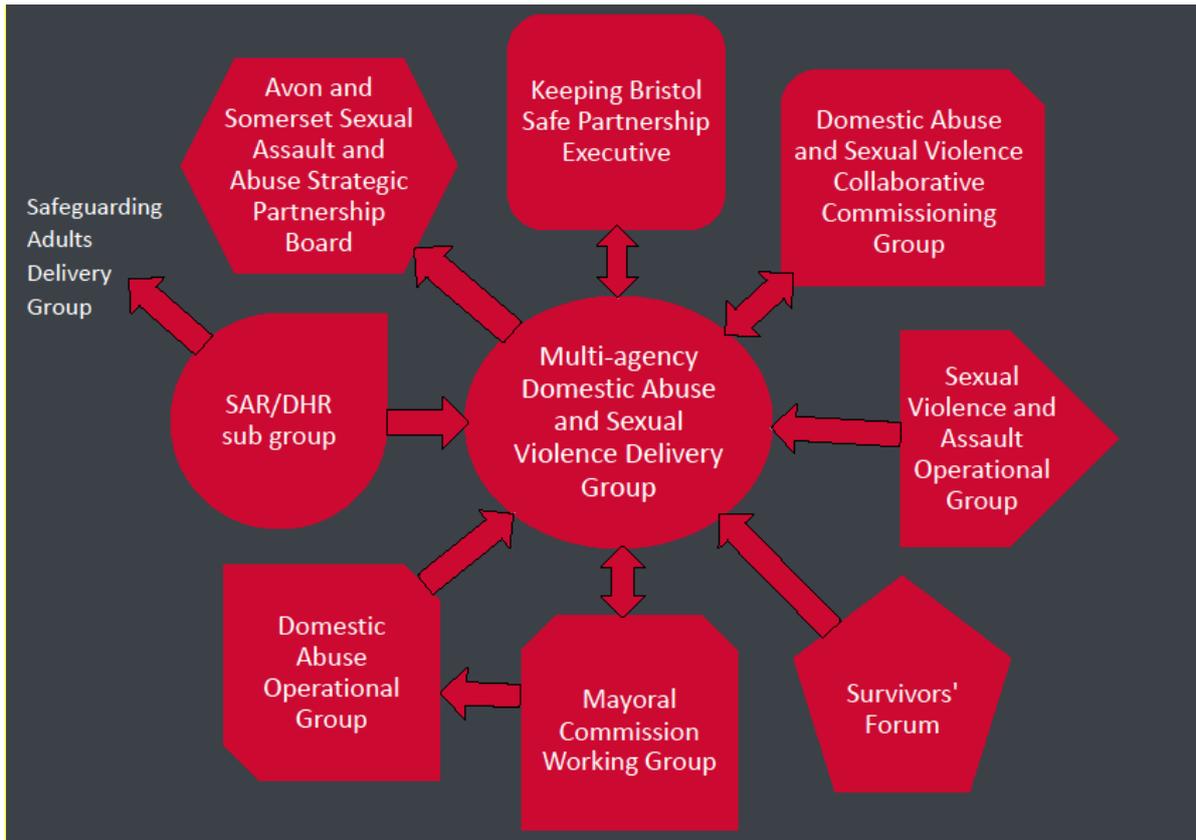
With the following objectives:

- To ensure domestic abuse and sexual violence services are in place for 1st October 2022
- To commission statutory services as required by the DA Act
- To produce a robust service specification
- To use co-design principles in designing services
- To ensure that service users are at the heart of decision making

- To take recommendations from the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Delivery Group and feedback decisions.

Membership of the Commissioning Group includes representatives from Bristol City Council Public Health, children’s, education, housing and adults departments as well as representatives from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Probation, the Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS England and Avon and Somerset Police.

This Collaborative Commissioning Group will engage as appropriate with key partners within Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership (please see diagram below).



The council’s decision-making pathway will be followed throughout the procurement. The lead cabinet member is the Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health, the responsible director is the Director for Communities and Public Health.

### 3. Methodology and principles

#### 3.1 Method

Our methodology for commissioning is outlined below. We have:

<b>Current issues and context</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conducted health needs assessments / gap analyses on the current services</li><li>• Obtained the views of service users and others in communities across Bristol through early engagement work</li><li>• Participated in the Mayoral Commission workshops and taken into consideration the subsequent report and recommendations</li><li>• Engaged with providers through the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Delivery Group.</li></ul>
<b>Understanding the drivers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Considered the financial implications and context</li><li>• Considered BCC Corporate Strategy and the City Plan</li><li>• Considered the Statutory requirements of the DA Act.</li></ul>
<b>Applying the evidence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reviewed the international, national and local evidence<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Reviewed the implications of findings in the health needs assessments / gap analyses</li><li>- Considered the best commissioning and procurement approaches that are suitable for this important work</li><li>- Reviewed how other local authorities and organisations are providing domestic abuse and sexual violence services to their population.</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Consultation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A formal consultation will be carried out and there will be online market engagement events.</li></ul>

### 4. Needs Assessment and Stakeholder Engagement

#### 4.1. Information to inform the commissioning process has been drawn from a number of sources including:

- Bristol 2019 Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Needs Assessment carried out by Public Health
- Early engagement events and survey undertaken in October – November 2019
- The Mayoral Commission workshops 2020 and subsequent report (2021)
- The Sexual violence needs assessment for Sexual Abuse and Assault Therapeutic Pathways in the South West (2021)
- The draft Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment in response to the DA Act (Davis and associates, 2021)

### 4.1.1. Bristol 2019 Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Needs Assessment<sup>vi</sup>

This needs assessment concluded: “What should be considered first and foremost is the importance of the services that already exist and the need to support victims in crisis. As highlighted by many of the service users, if the support hadn’t existed at the time they had accessed it, many of them felt they would not be here to tell their story.”

Other needs identified were:

- Lack of mental health support and therapeutic interventions
- More support needed for children and young people
- Waiting lists need to be reduced
- Work around challenging gender stereotyping and gender norms is needed
- A greater understanding of the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences and trauma
- Need for clear pathways to support
- Training and support for the wider workforce.

### 4.1.2. Early engagement events, survey stakeholder engagement and service user consultation

In Autumn 2019, a number of engagement events were hosted throughout the city. Stakeholders included service users, service providers, other professionals and members of the public that may or may not have experienced domestic abuse. Stakeholders were asked a number of questions about current services and services that must be provided. Key themes which emerged from this exercise are shown in the diagram below:



We have taken account of these themes in our proposed commissioning plan.

### 4.1.3. The Mayoral Commission 2021

The Bristol Mayoral Commission report was published in 2021 with a number of recommendations, many of which echo the responses in the early engagement. These included:

- The importance of community-based services
- Services for children and young people which they are given a meaningful voice in designing
- Additional domestic abuse support within housing teams
- Support for people from diverse communities and awareness of cultural sensitivities
- Recovery pathways within and between services
- Support for victims of sexual violence especially those who experience multiple risks that increase vulnerability
- Work across the city to raise awareness that domestic abuse and sexual violence is unacceptable including within workplaces and in local communities.

### 4.1.4. Needs assessment for Sexual Abuse and Assault (SAAS) therapeutic pathways in the South West 2021<sup>vii</sup>

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSEI) commissioned LimeCulture Community Interest Company (CIC) to undertake a regional Needs Assessment for the Sexual Abuse and Assault (SAAS) therapeutic pathways in the South West. This Health Needs Assessment (HNA) included the Avon and Somerset police force area, of which Bristol is a part. The needs assessment process included a mix of desk-based research and professional stakeholder engagement and led to a number of recommendations, those relevant to this commissioning process are listed below:

- Stakeholders in the Avon and Somerset area reported increased levels of complexity in those presenting
- Stakeholders should continue to monitor access to services across protected characteristics and identify opportunities to engage with hard-to-reach groups
- Commissioners should work to a needs-based service specification
- Commissioners should work collaboratively with services to clarify different service offers and institute a more robust and joined up monitoring approach
- Commissioners should ensure that the workforce is working to professional and ethical frameworks that assure appropriate training, supervision and CPD to ensure welfare of victims, survivors, staff and volunteers
- Commissioners should ensure specifications value online and telephone therapeutic provision in supporting access for victims.

### 4.1.5. The Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment in response to the DA Act (Davis and Associates, 2021)

This needs assessment is being completed and will be included in the final version of the strategy.

## 5. Current Contracts

### 5.1. Current Contracts and Expenditure – in scope

2021/22 financial year expenditure for services that are considered in scope are shown in the table below:

<p><b>1. Accommodation-based domestic abuse support</b></p> <p>Accommodation based support for victims with complex needs (8 safe house spaces)</p> <p>Accommodation based support for women and their children (41 safe house spaces) currently commissioned in one contract as part of the Domestic Violence and Abuse Support Service (see box 2).</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Total: £465,963</b></p>	<p><b>2. Specialist domestic abuse services</b></p> <p>Domestic Violence and Abuse Support Service including single point of contact, advice, outreach, floating community-based support, children's services currently commissioned in one contract with accommodation-based support (see box 1)</p> <p>Specialist support for Black and minority ethnic women</p> <p>Support for street sex workers</p> <p>Dedicated independent domestic and sexual abuse advisor role specifically for male survivors</p> <p>Co-located services within the following statutory services: GP Surgeries, the BRI Hospital, BCC Families in Focus teams, the Police Lighthouse Safeguarding Unit.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Total: £844,307</b></p>
<p><b>3. Sexual violence services</b></p> <p>Telephone line advice service onward pathways to community based therapeutic interventions to victims and survivors of historic and current sexual abuse.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Total: £115,000</b></p>	<p><b>4. Prevention and recovery work</b></p> <p>Group work opportunities for survivors of domestic abuse.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Total: £50,000</b></p>

See appendix 4 for full list of contracts.

### 5.2. Out of scope

2021/22 financial year expenditure for services that are considered out of scope are:

- Independent Domestic Abuse Advisors (IDVAS) in A&E at Southmead Hospital**

This service is commissioned jointly with South Gloucestershire Council who are the lead commissioner (Bristol contribution is £41,400). It is envisaged that this arrangement will continue.
- Perpetrator work**

It is proposed that work with perpetrators is developed separately and with regard to other perpetrator work being undertaken in the Avon and Somerset police force area. £150,000 has been reserved for this.

## 5.3. Additional services that have been funded in 21/22 as a result of funding made available because of the DA Act

### Accommodation based support:

- LGBT Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) within supported accommodation
- Play therapy for children in safe houses
- 24-hour, 7 day a week support within the complex needs safe house
- Domestic abuse wellbeing worker for 1625 Independent People.

### Other:

- Safe and Together pilot – domestic abuse practitioners within Social Care
- Children's 1:1 and group support provided by Julian House.

## 6. Commissioning Proposals 2022-2027

### 6.1. Domestic Abuse Act funding for accommodation-based support

Bristol City Council received £1.079 million in 2021/22 to spend on facilitating and delivering specialist support for victims of domestic abuse living in safe accommodation, and the expectation is that a similar amount will be awarded in future years. As this funding is currently awarded on an annual basis, the accommodation-based support element will now be a separate lot (contract) from other domestic abuse services.

### 6.2. Proposal to work towards joint commissioning of sexual violence services across the area

It is proposed that Bristol City Council work towards jointly funding Sexual Violence services in partnership with other organisations namely the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, NHS England and Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group. In order to facilitate this, sexual violence services would initially need to be commissioned for a shorter period of time in order to align commissioning timelines with other organisations.

### 6.3. Financial Envelope

The expected annual value available for services is **£1,230,000** per annum for a period of 4.5 years with provision for a two-year extension. This does not include the accommodation-based support strand which will be dependent on the amount allocated by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).

## 7. Commissioning Model

### 7.1. Division of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence work into four strands

It is proposed to split the funding available to cover four separate strands of work:

#### 1. Accommodation-based domestic abuse support

This will include support for those affected by domestic abuse within a range of safe accommodation and include services for children and young people, services for equalities groups and for those experiencing multiple disadvantage. There would be an expectation that a minimum of 49 safe accommodation spaces will be provided. The amount for this will be dependent on the annual allocation from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUCH) but is anticipated that this will be in the region of £950,000 per annum. The draft [Bristol Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2021-2024<sup>viii</sup>](#) contains more details about this strand of work.

#### 2. Specialist domestic abuse services

This strand includes:

- community based services for those wishing to remain in their own homes
- outreach and resettlement work
- specialist services for children and young people
- specialist support worker services for equalities groups
- services for those experiencing multiple disadvantage including street sex workers
- co-located services within statutory services, for example: GP Surgeries, the BRI Hospital, BCC families In Focus Teams, and the Police Lighthouse Safeguarding Unit.

It is proposed that £850,000 is allocated to this strand.

#### 3. Sexual violence services

This includes helpline and therapeutic support. It is proposed to allocate £180,000 for these services this is an increase of £65,000 to reflect increased need.

#### 4. Locality element (for community organisations)

This includes group work, awareness raising and bystander type interventions. The suggested allocation is £200,000. It is intended that this strand should fund projects based in community organisations within each of the three localities in Bristol (South, North & West and Inner City & East) and link in with the newly developed Integrated Care Partnerships. This will enable prevention and follow-on work to be targeted to meet the specific needs of each area.

**(please see diagram overleaf)**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1. Accommodation-based domestic abuse support</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Including a minimum of 49 safe accommodation spaces, services for children and young people, equalities groups and those experiencing multiple disadvantage and co-located IDVAs in housing</p> <p style="text-align: center;">£950,000* (annual DLUHC funding)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2. Specialist domestic abuse services</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Including community outreach and support services, co-located services, specialist support worker services for children and young people, equalities groups and those experiencing multiple disadvantage such as street sex workers</p> <p style="text-align: center;">£850,000*</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>3. Sexual violence services</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Including helpline and therapeutic support</p> <p style="text-align: center;">£180,000*</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4. Prevention and recovery work (locality-based projects for community organisations)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Including group work, awareness raising and bystander type interventions</p> <p style="text-align: center;">£200,000*</p>

\*Indicative amounts

## 7.2. Expectations for all strands

- Access to services and pathways should be clear, with a ‘One Front Door’ approach where appropriate
- We know that the majority of those affected by domestic abuse are women but equally that male survivors and survivors from the LGBTQ+ community have specific needs. Potential providers will be expected to explain how they will meet the needs of men and those from the LGBTQ+ community, recognising the need for separate spaces and specific services for a range of people
- The services should meet the appropriate ‘industry’ standards. For example, domestic abuse services should meet Safe Lives/Women’s Aid standards. There are also standards for counselling and housing related support
- Providers should demonstrate cultural competence and have a commitment to workforce diversity
- Services should be trauma-informed and recognise the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences. The BNSSG Principles for trauma-informed practice should be embedded into all work (see [Principles for Trauma-Informed System \(bristolsafeguarding.org\)](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-03/Principles%20for%20Trauma-Informed%20System%20%28bristolsafeguarding.org%29.pdf))

### **7.3. Tendering approaches and allocation of resources**

We have considered a range of options for tendering and believe that an open tender process best meets our requirements as it will be transparent and ensure value for money.

It is proposed that the four strands listed in 6.1 above will be four separate lots.

For all lots, collaboration and partnership bids will be encouraged as it is recognised that one provider would not be able to deliver the range of services that a consortium of providers would be able to offer for those affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence in Bristol.

### **7.4. Procurement Timetable**

Please note that some dates may change through the course of the process.

The key dates for this commissioning process are:

- Public Consultation – 8th December 2021 to 23rd January 2022
- Tender launch – 21st February 2022
- Tender close – 22nd April 2022
- Contract award – 27th June 2022
- Service start date – 3rd October 2022

## Appendices

### Appendix 1: Communications Strategy

(to be added on completion of consultation)

### Appendix 2: Equality Impact Assessment

(to be added on completion of consultation)

### Appendix 3: Report on findings from the Public Consultation

(to be added on completion of consultation)

### Appendix 4: Current contracts and expenditure in scope

Contract	Annual Value
Community IDVAS to BAME women and girls	£36,000
Specialist support to BAME female survivors through criminal justice system	£10,700
IRIS training and coordination within GP practices	£39,000
Group therapeutic interventions to survivors and families	£50,000
Complex needs accommodation	£134,000
Universal community-based support services and the provision of refuge spaces across the city	£777,494
IDVAS service within University Hospitals Bristol	£68,727
3 additional domestic abuse support officers to be embedded within BCC Family in Focus early help teams	£75,000
Specialist support embedded within Families in Focus locality teams	£49,950
Telephone line advice service onward pathways to community based therapeutic interventions to victims and survivors of historic and current sexual abuse	£115,000
Support to street sex workers experiencing domestic and sexual violence	£38,200
Specialist independent domestic violence support and advocacy to women and girls - embedded within Lighthouse Safeguarding Unit	£40,000
Dedicated independent domestic and sexual abuse advisor role specifically for male survivors	£41,649
<b>Current total:</b>	<b>£1,475,720</b>

## Appendix 5: Glossary

<b>Accommodation-based support</b>	Specialist support for individuals affected by domestic abuse who are living in safe accommodation.
<b>ACEs</b>	<b>Adverse Childhood Experiences</b>
<b>BAME</b>	<b>Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic</b>
<b>BCC</b>	<b>Bristol City Council</b>
<b>BNSSG</b>	<b>Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire</b>
<b>BRI</b>	<b>Bristol Royal Infirmary</b>
<b>Bystander interventions</b>	Third party intervening and challenging other people's behaviour. Contributing to changes in attitudes, beliefs and social and cultural norms.
<b>Co-design principles</b>	Involving stakeholders throughout the design process.
<b>Co-located services</b>	Services located in the same space e.g. building, office, community centre, etc.
<b>Complex needs</b>	This could include substance misuse, mental ill health, homelessness.
<b>CPD</b>	<b>Continuing Professional Development</b> E.g. training.
<b>DA</b>	<b>Domestic Abuse</b>
<b>DHR</b>	<b>Domestic Homicide Review</b> A multi-agency review process which seeks to determine what relevant agencies and individuals involved could have done differently, when someone aged 16 or over dies as a result of violence, abuse or neglect by a relative, household member or someone they've been in an intimate relationship with.
<b>DLUHC</b>	<b>Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities</b>
<b>Equalities groups</b>	Groups that include people covered by the nine protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010 (see "Protected Characteristics").
<b>Families in Focus</b>	A service provided by Bristol City Council which delivers support and interventions to children and families with complex needs, who need help.
<b>Holistic approach</b>	Approach that takes account of the whole person and all elements of their life, not just one particular issue.
<b>IDSVA</b>	<b>Independent Domestic and Sexual Violence Advisor</b> Specialist professionals who work with and support victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence.
<b>IDVA</b>	<b>Independent Domestic Violence Advisor</b> Specialist professionals who work with and support victims of domestic abuse.
<b>IRIS</b>	<b>Identification and Referral to Improve Safety</b> A national project which works with GPs to help them to recognise and respond to domestic abuse.
<b>KBSP</b>	<b>Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership</b> Made up of members from Bristol City Council, BNSSG Clinical commissioning group, Avon and Somerset Constabulary, and other groups that work directly in the community.

<b>LGBT</b>	<b>Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender</b> Also referred to as LGBTQ+.
<b>MARAC</b>	<b>Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference</b> A meeting where information is shared on the highest risk domestic abuse cases and representatives discuss what action is needed to increase safety.
<b>Multiple disadvantage</b>	Where someone is affected by various overlapping inequalities.
<b>One front door</b>	Refers to all domestic abuse services being accessible via the same route, e.g. a specific helpline or organisation.
<b>Peer support</b>	People sharing knowledge, experience or practical help with each other.
<b>Protected characteristics</b>	The Equality Act 2010 lists the nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. It is against the law to discriminate against someone because of these characteristics.
<b>Refuge</b>	Safe accommodation provided to people fleeing abusive situations.
<b>SAR</b>	<b>Safeguarding Adult Review</b> A multi-agency review process which seeks to determine what relevant agencies and individuals involved could have done differently that could have prevented harm or a death from taking place.
<b>Safe Accommodation</b>	The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 defines Safe Accommodation as "...solely dedicated to providing a safe place to stay for victims of domestic abuse, including expert support...".
<b>Terms of reference</b>	A document that sets out the arrangements and purpose of something, e.g. a group, network, project, meeting, etc.
<b>Trauma-informed practice</b>	An approach which seeks to understand and respond to the impact of trauma on people's lives.

## References

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- <sup>i</sup> [One City Plan 2021 \(bristolonecity.com\)](https://www.bristolonecity.com)
- <sup>ii</sup> Bristol City Council (2020) Mayoral Commission on Domestic Abuse Report and Recommendations.  
<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/documents/20182/5134107/The+Mayoral+Commission+on+Domestic+Abuse+report.pdf/9f85d232-fbb0-b91a-4d19-e093ca9546b6?t=1615542794441>
- <sup>iii</sup> Domestic Abuse Act 2021 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/17/contents/enacted>
- <sup>iv</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-bill-2020-overarching-documents>
- <sup>v</sup> Rape Crisis (2021) <https://rapecrisis.org.uk/get-help/looking-for-information/what-is-sexual-violence/>
- <sup>vi</sup> Bristol City Council (2019) Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Needs Assessment (unpublished)
- <sup>vii</sup> LimeCulture (2021) Needs Assessment for Sexual Abuse and Assault (SAAS) Therapeutic Pathways in the South West (unpublished)
- <sup>viii</sup> Bristol City Council (2021) Bristol Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2021-2024.  
[https://www.bristol.gov.uk/documents/20182/305531/Draft\\_Safe\\_Accommodation\\_Strategy\\_2021-2024.pdf/64f5e3b6-1d95-b4bb-3def-ddfacc350dcc?t=1635157347105](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/documents/20182/305531/Draft_Safe_Accommodation_Strategy_2021-2024.pdf/64f5e3b6-1d95-b4bb-3def-ddfacc350dcc?t=1635157347105)