
Cabinet

12th March 2024

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities – Councillor A S Khan

Director approving submission of the report:

Director of Public Health and Wellbeing

Ward(s) affected:

All

Title:

Acceptance of Accommodation-based Support Grant 2024 -2025: Part 4 Duties of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021

Is this a key decision?

Yes - the proposals are likely to have a significant impact on residents in two or more electoral wards in the city.

Executive summary:

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 received Royal Assent on 29 April 2021. The Act introduced several new duties and a range of implications for local authorities including safe accommodation strategic planning, safe accommodation provision and support for victims, and the prioritisation of domestic abuse victims within homelessness applications.

In July 2022 Cabinet noted the acceptance of the grant of £852,283 in 2022/2023 from the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government to fulfil the functions of the new statutory duty placed on Tier 1 Local Authorities relating to the provision of support to victims of domestic abuse and their children residing within safe accommodation: and delegated authority to the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities, to approve further grant due for 2023/24 up to a maximum of £2.5 million pound. Coventry was awarded £869,332 for 2023/2024.

The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has now determined under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003, that the DA (Domestic Abuse) Grant funding will be provided to local authorities, for the financial year 2024/2025, to fulfil the functions of the new statutory duty on Tier 1 Local Authorities relating to the provision of support to victims of domestic abuse and their children residing within safe accommodation.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 1) Approve the acceptance of the grant of £885,733 for 2024/2025 from the Department of Levelling up to fulfil the functions of the new statutory duty on Tier 1 Local Authorities relating to the provision of support to victims of domestic abuse and their children residing within safe accommodation: and
- 2) Delegate authority to the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing, following consultation with the Director of Finance and Resources and the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities, to accept any future additional grant funding to fulfil the functions set out in this report in subsequent years 2025 – 2026 and 2026 - 2027 up to a combined total amount of £2.5 million pounds.
- 3) Delegate authority to the Director of Finance and Resources to make the necessary adjustments to the revenue budget to give effect to the recommendations set out in this report.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1 - WISH Counselling and emotional support for children

Appendix 2 - Space2Thrive Mental Health Provision

Appendix 3 - Immigration Support

Appendix 4 - Family support Worker

Appendix 5 - Sanctuary Scheme extensions

Appendix 6 - Complex Needs Unit

Appendix 7 - Substance Misuse/Domestic Abuse Support

Appendix 8 - Housing and Homelessness IDVA Provision

Background papers:

None

Other useful documents

Coventry Domestic Abuse Strategy 2018 – 2025

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/file/27376/domestic-abuse-strategy-2018-2025>

Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment

Coventry's Domestic Abuse Strategy refresh addendum

https://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/download/5118/domestic_abuse_strategy

Has it or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

Domestic Abuse - A Briefing Note and Presentation was considered by Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee on 30 June 2021

Domestic Abuse – Safe and Supported Accommodation - was considered by Communities and Partnerships Scrutiny Board in March 2022

Domestic Abuse Strategy – An update was considered by Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee on 22 June 2022

Has it or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel, or other body?

The Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board has oversight of the grant award and commissioning plans.

Will this report go to Council?

No

**Report title: Approval of Accommodation-based support Grant 2024 -2025: Part 4
Duties of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021**

1. Context (or background)

Following the implementation of the Domestic Abuse Act on 29th April 2021, Cabinet has previously:

- 1) Approved the proposal to create the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board as a statutory board of the local authority.
- 2) Approved acceptance of the grants for 2021/2022, 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to fulfil the functions of the new statutory duty on Tier 1 Local Authorities relating to the provision of support to victims of domestic abuse and their children residing within safe accommodation.
- 3) Noted the Council’s new duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

Since April 2021, a full needs assessment was undertaken, the Domestic Abuse Strategy and action plan were refreshed and extended to 2025 and additional specialist Domestic Abuse services were commissioned. Cabinet approved the refreshed strategy and action plan in November 2021. The newly commissioned services to support victims and children living in relevant, safe accommodation were in response to needs identified in the needs assessment and were required to ensure the Council complies with its new duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

The details of the newly commissioned services in response to the needs assessment are below:

<p>Counselling / emotional support for children and young people in safe accommodation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 x WISH Practitioners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-2-1 support for children including domestic abuse awareness, equality and respect in relationships and safety. • Delivery of You, Me and Mum and joint sessions between child and parent • Facilitate access for other specialist counselling. • Advocating for children • Aftercare
<p>Mental health support and counselling for adult victims, specialist provision from Coventry and Warwickshire Mind “Space 2 Thrive”.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • trauma informed counselling. • victims supported with lower-level needs via engaging with community assets. • Professional advice around mental health
<p>Coordination of legal support for victims with insecure migration status or no recourse to public</p>	<p>Supporting victims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To apply for the Destitution Domestic Violence concessions.

<p>funds (NRPF), specialist provision from Panahghar.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x ethnic minority groups immigration specialist practitioner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide direct immigration advice across various visa forms, plus divorce advice To coordinate network of solicitors who have legal aid contracts or offer pro bono work. <p>Partnership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide advice and training to partners agencies To hold immigration surgeries
<p>Family support workers within safe accommodation at Valley House, Coventry Haven Women's aid and Panahghar</p>	<p>Supporting parents (and children) in specialist accommodation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver Positive Parenting Programmes and other parenting support. Assess child's needs and focus on school attendance, child development and therapeutic issues. Complete Early Help assessments Liaison with universal services and facilitate development activities with external agencies where appropriate. Consult with children to ensure their voices are heard within the Partnership.
<p>Extend capacity in sanctuary scheme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> specific specialist support worker 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase sanctuary scheme capacity from 100 – 200 premises secured per year ensuring victims and children can remain safely in their own homes and enabling 100 additional households to access the additional support provided by the WISH service and Coventry and Warwickshire Mind.
<p>Valley House accommodation</p>	<p>Complex needs unit (7 units of accommodation for people with co-occurring domestic abuse, mental health and / or substance misuse concerns):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported accommodation. Case management and intensive day care support <p>Independent evaluation ongoing</p>
<p>Change Grow Live (substance misuse service)</p>	<p>Contribution to a senior practitioner within the drug and alcohol service to specialise in domestic abuse.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Casework for complex cases Support for MARAC Advice and support to CGL in supporting victims of domestic abuse
<p>Housing and Homelessness team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 x Housing IDVA's 	<p>Supporting survivors fleeing Domestic Abuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing specialist support to victims approaching the Housing and Homelessness team due to fleeing domestic abuse

<p>Discretionary fund held by LA and dispersed via commissioned services from individual applications.</p>	<p>Supporting clients in various ways including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved re-settlement / move on of victims • Support people with assets to access supported accommodation (e.g., where Housing Benefit cannot be claimed) • Meeting legal fees for immigration cases which where pro-bono / legal aid work cannot be sourced. • Potential to support interpreting costs.
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The grant also funds a domestic abuse programme manager to co-ordinate delivery of the strategy and action plan across the partnership.

The appendices include more detail on each of the services and brief evaluations of what has been achieved to date.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal.

This grant is specifically provided to support the Council's new duties to support victims in safe accommodation as laid out within the Act.

It is proposed that the grant continues to fund the services detailed above. Appropriate contract monitoring and evaluation continues to assess the effectiveness of the new provision.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

A full needs assessment was undertaken in 2021 by an independent agency and included consultation with victims and partner agencies. This informed the development of the addendum to the strategy and the commissioning of the new services. The needs assessment was published in October 2021 and is under constant review to ensure any gaps in service provision or emerging themes are identified. The Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board meets regularly and oversees the strategic direction, the local authority's new duties and commissioning intentions and evaluation of services. The ongoing development of data capture will continue to inform commissioning intentions and evaluations of a range of services.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision.

The implementation of the refreshed strategy and action plan has already taken effect. This matter currently relates to the New Burdens Grant funding for 2024 – 2025.

5. Comments from the Director of Finance and Resources and the Director of Law and Governance

5.1. Financial Implications

The Council is due to receive £885,733 of new burdens funding in 2024/25 to support the requirements of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 via s31 grant. Unlike other s31 grants,

prior to receipt, this grant requires sign off via a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government which whilst not legally binding sets an obligation by all parties to fulfil the requirements.

To ensure the funding is available to fulfil the requirements of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, approval is sought to approve acceptance via the MOU as well as delegated authority to facilitate the ability for future grant in subsequent years to be accepted and included in the Council's budget.

5.2. Legal Implications

This grant is provided under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003. The grant covers revenue expenditure relating to the functions set out in the statutory duty (within the Domestic Abuse Act) on Tier 1 Local Authorities, relating to the provision of support to victims of domestic abuse and their children residing within safe accommodation and other statutory duties.

The proposal in this report ensures that the Council will be able to meet the statutory responsibilities imposed by Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, relating to the provision of support for all victims of domestic abuse and their children.

The Council's constitution requires formal Cabinet approval prior to accepting external grants more than £500,000.

6. Other implications

6.1. How will this contribute to the One Coventry Plan?

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/strategies-plans-policies/one-coventry-plan>

Acceptance of the grant will support the One Coventry Plan to help to make communities safer, improve the health and wellbeing of residents and protect our most vulnerable people by keeping children and adults safe from harm and improving services for people experiencing domestic abuse.

6.2. How is risk being managed.

Governance is provided by the statutory Local Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board, which is responsible for supporting Coventry City Council in meeting its duty under Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act.

6.3. What is the impact on the organisation?

None

6.4. Equalities / EIA?

Duties under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 were discharged during the re-procurement of safe accommodation services in 2019, including the completion of an Equality Consultation Analysis. An EIA was completed in October 2021 following the completion of the needs assessment and strategy addendum.

6.5. Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment?

No Implications

6.6. Implications for partner organisations?

Most of the funding is dispersed through existing commissioned providers including specialist domestic abuse services who work with a range of partner organisations.

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Contributors:				
Paul Hargrave/ Jo Smith	Commissioners	Public Health and Wellbeing	15.02.24	16.02.24
Rachel Chapman	Consultant in Public Health	Public Health and Wellbeing	15.02.24	16.02.24
Jayne Ross	Public Health Programme Manager	Public Health and Wellbeing	15.02.24	15.02.24
Michelle Salmon	Governance Services Officer	Law and Governance	15.02.24	15.02.24
Names of approvers for submission: (Officers and Members)				
Allison Duggal	Director of Public Health and Wellbeing	-	15.02.24	19.02.24
Ewan Dewar	Head of Finance	Finance and Resources	15.02.24	19.02.24
Oluremi Aremu	Head of Legal and Procurement Services	Law and Governance	15.02.24	19.02.24
Councillor A Khan	Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities	-	19.02.24	19.02.24

This report is published on the council's website: www.coventry.gov.uk/meetings

<p>Counselling / emotional support for children and young people in safe accommodation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 x WISH Practitioners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-2-1 support for children including domestic abuse awareness, equality and respect in relationships and safety. • Delivery of You, Me and Mum and joint sessions between child and parent • Facilitate access for other specialist counselling. • Advocating for children • Aftercare
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Following the implementation of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 two additional WISH practitioners were commissioned within the WISH programme at Coventry Relate to support children and young people who experienced domestic abuse and were living in safe accommodation and defined by the Act. In Coventry this meant:

- Refuge accommodation with Coventry Haven Women's Aid and Panahghar.
- Valley House Domestic Abuse dispersed accommodation.
- Households receiving a sanctuary scheme within their own home.
- Families in temporary accommodation having fled domestic abuse.

The WISH service provides:

- Advice and support including advocacy work.
- Group work for children and young people
- Group work for children and parents
- Individual support plans
- One to one counselling
- Family counselling

Since Q4 of 2021 – 2022 there have been 136 referrals made for children and young people living in safe accommodation in the city. This averages at 17 per quarter with the highest number being 27 in Q4 2022/2023.

Over that period 51% of referrals are for females and 49% males although at the beginning of the contract there were far more males (58%) and females (42%) and currently females make up 61% of referrals,

Additional data captured during 2022/2023 indicates that 82 % of CYP (Children & Young People) (Children & Young People) are aged between 3 – 13 years with the 18% being over 13. On average 14% of cases are open to early help with a further 8% open on child protection or child in need plans.

Quantitative Outcomes:

- 100% of children having accessed WISH Sanctuary services felt safer, and that they had an improved understanding of DA (Domestic Abuse) and how to manage risks safely having accessed the service.

- 92% of children having accessed WISH services felt their relationship with their non abusive parent had improved following accessing the service.

Qualitative Outcomes:

Child comments

- Before moving into refuge my mum always told me not to tell anyone about my father, I'm glad I can now talk about what's happened with you, my mum and to our key worker at refuge.
- I struggled to make friends but since working with you I have made 2 good friends which I am grateful for.
- When I feel angry, I use the cookie breathing exercise which really helps me.
- Before I would not tell anyone how I was feeling which made me feel very alone, now I have a support network in place I will tell my mum or my teacher about how I am feeling.
- I feel safer and more confident, especially now I know how to use the silent solution.
- I have learnt that it is never ok to hurt others and not to stand in the middle when mum and dad are arguing I must go to my room or a safe place.
- Me and mum are much closer, before I wouldn't talk to her about how I was feeling as I didn't want her to worry, but now I have told her how I am feeling it makes me feel better.
- Now I feel safe to leave our house me and my mum enjoy going places together, before we didn't go or do anything together.

Comments from parents:

- Thank you so much for your support, I have noticed a big change in my child since before the programme. They would stay in their room but now they will come and sit with me and tell me how they are feeling or even just talk about their day.
- I have noticed he is much calmer at home before and he would not speak about their father but now he does share how he felt during the incidents.

Comments from Professionals:

- EH worker: Thank you for supporting CYP. I have seen a boost in her confidence, and she has shared she has enjoyed your work, mum and child are in a much better place and both are feeling much safer. I am closing them to Early help.
- DSL: CYP has really come out of her shell since working with you and she will be receiving an award for all her hard work and positive attitude in lessons.

Name of Service: Coventry and Warwickshire Mind Space2Thrive (Pilot Project)

Mental health support and counselling for adult victims, specialist provision from Coventry and Warwickshire Mind -Space 2 Thrive	Supporting 180 victims: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 102 victims receiving (trauma informed) counselling.• 78 victims supported with lower-level needs via engaging with community assets.• Professional advice around mental health
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The aim of the service is to:

- Reduce symptoms of post-traumatic Stress (PTSD), low mood and anxiety
- Improve Psychological, emotional, physical, and social wellbeing.
- Prevent further mental health and emotional wellbeing deterioration.
- Reduce the need for referrals to services for tier 3 and tier 4 Interventions.
- Prevent and reduce the revolving door process (from previously accessed services/interventions
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Primary interventions consist of:

Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) one-on-one counselling sessions - which is an evidence-based therapy recommended by NICE Guidelines for adults with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Trauma Focused CBT is a therapeutic approach that helps individuals, especially those who have experienced trauma, by addressing and changing negative thought patterns and behaviours related to their trauma.

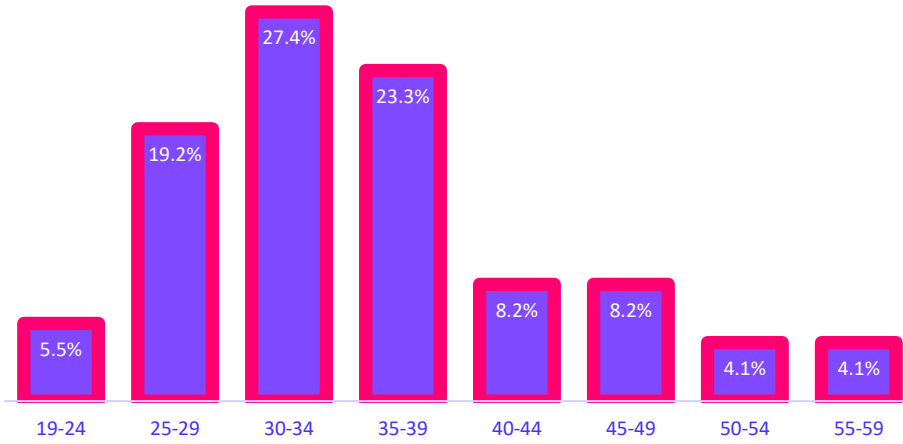
Pre- and post- therapy support through individual one-to-one well-being sessions - in these sessions, Wellbeing Practitioners collaborate with users to identify underlying causes and explore avenues for positive change. This includes mutually agreeing on action planning, problem-solving, and self-help coping strategies to enhance resilience. Our support also includes advice, guidance, and appropriate referrals when needed.

A group programme has recently been added "**Learn to Thrive – Moving Forward from Domestic Abuse,**" - which focuses on the connection between mental health and domestic abuse. This program offers a safe and educational space for service users to better understand their responses to their experiences. It comprises four group topics designed to educate about trauma and provide a therapeutic environment that encourages reflection and the potential for peer support.

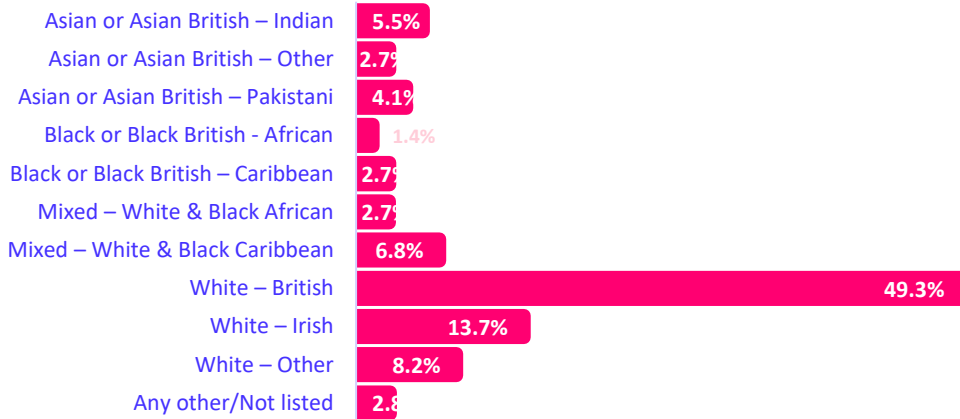
Since July 2022, this service was involved in the development of the Valley House Complex Needs Unit and the ongoing support within the Complex Needs accommodation. Since October 2021, the service has received an average of new 28 referrals per quarter from the specialist Domestic abuse services and accommodation providers. All referrals have been for female service users although one referral has been received for a male survivor in Q2 of 2023/4

Demographics:

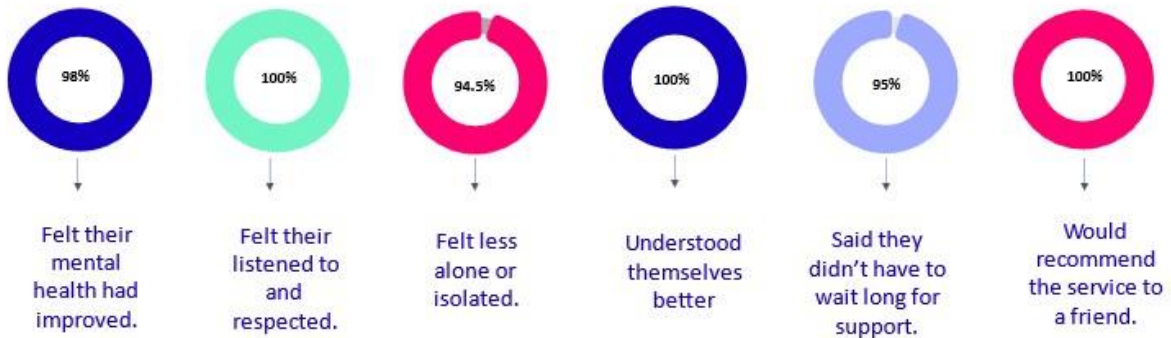
Percentage of Women Accessing S2T by Age Range



Percentage of Women Accessing S2T by Ethnicity



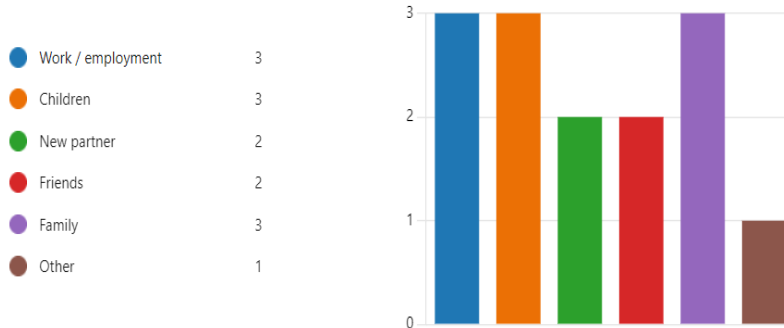
Satisfaction Survey



3+ Months post service outcomes (Newly Introduced)

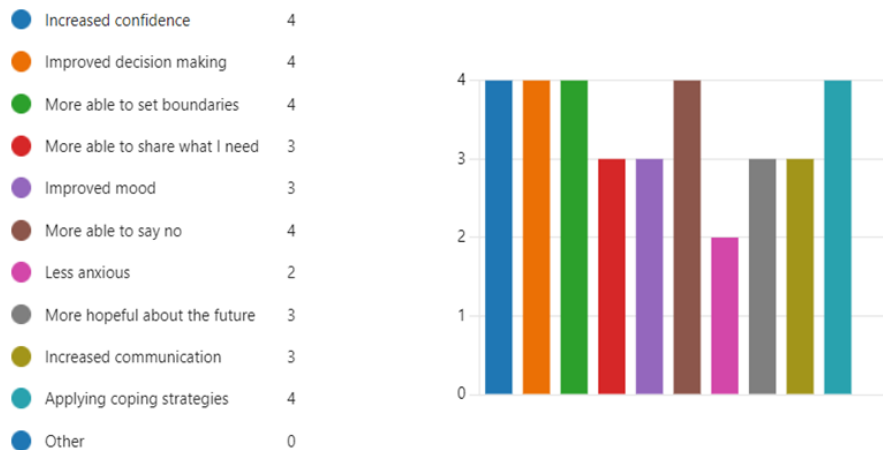
12. If you think S2T has had a positive impact on other relationships, please tell us which ones? (select all that apply)

[More Details](#)



13. Can you please tell us how it positively impacted your relationships (select all that apply)

[More Details](#)



Qualitative Feedback:

'It has helped me massively stop questioning myself and trying to put myself first more. Also, with relaxing and not panicking. Helped me understand more as to what is 'normal' and what to expect in healthy ways for relationships and has given me courage.'

'It was very helpful in helping me through a difficult time, going through court process, many assessments and help with my mental health e.g.: staying positive and grounding techniques.'

'(therapist) was very patient, kind and compassionate to hear my side of the long story and able to understand me and talk through.'

Appendix 3

Immigration Support Worker

<p>Coordination of legal support for victims with insecure migration status or no recourse to public funds (NRPF), specialist provision from Panahghar.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1 x ethnic minority groups immigration specialist practitioner (regulated immigration adviser – level 2 Office of Immigration Services Commissioner to be able to practice as a Solicitor)	<p>Supporting victims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">To apply for the Destitution Domestic Violence concessionsTo provide direct immigration advice across various visa forms, plus divorce adviceTo coordinate a network of solicitors who have legal aid contracts or offer pro bona work. <p>Partnership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">To provide advice and training to partners agenciesTo Hold immigration surgeries
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The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 did not incorporate any support for victims and survivors of domestic abuse who cannot access public funds due to an insecure immigration status however this issue was also highlighted in Coventry's need assessment conducted as part of the requirements of the DA (Domestic Abuse) Act 2021. It was also recognised that our local domestic abuse services were also supporting many survivors within the community and specialist accommodation, supported by charitable donations, whilst navigating the lengthy and complicated immigration processes to ensure the future safety of victims and survivors of domestic abuse; securing the Destitute domestic violence concession; asylum applications and indefinite leave to remain. Coventry consequently commissioned the role of an immigration support worker based within Panahghar to support those in safe accommodation and professionals involved with the applications and processes required.

The Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner requires all immigration advisors to be regulated and demonstrate that they are fit and competent to provide immigration advice and support by undertaking relevant examinations based on the level of support the advisor intends to offer.

The levels include:

- level 1: basic immigration advice within the Immigration Rules
- level 2: more complex casework, including applications outside the Immigration Rules
- level 3: appeals

The process has been lengthy, and the immigration support worker is now qualified to Level 3.

Over the past 12 months there have been 25 direct referrals to the Immigration Support Worker, 4 have been granted DDV (Destitution Domestic Violence) concessions, 6 have been granted ILR (Indefinite Leave to Remain) 5 service users who already had ILR are currently being supported to bring their children to the UK (United Kingdom). Only one

service user was ineligible to make any application and the remaining service users are all pending the ILR decision from the Home Office.

Types of support provided:

- Assistance with getting legal advice.
- DDVC applications
- Legal research and working with other legal organisations like AIRE.
- EU law/treaty rights research and application
- Breaking down legal jargon/advice letters and translating into understandable language for SUs
- Statements for ILR applications
- Witness statements and advice letters, client care letters, closure letters provided to every client.
- ILR applications require evidence which is a lengthy process. Evidence for every case being collected from police, social care, DV (Domestic Violence) orgs, GP, and witnesses.
- Translation and/or interpretation into a range of languages
- Support with helping SUs understand third party support (meeting immigration rules).
- Identified what routes are available for the service user to apply for leave to remain/settlement.
- Supporting EIP Team with advice over the phone and accepting referrals for further support.

Additional Support to professionals:

- DA & Immigration Training
- Support sessions with Valley House who are accepting more referrals with immigration concerns.
- Visits to Refuge accommodation to support service users.
- Support to domestic abuse outreach teams and IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisor) staff

Appendix 4:

Name of service: Family Support Workers (FSW)

Aim/scope of service:

<p>Family Support Worker (FSW)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.5 x FSW at Valley House and project costs • 2 x FSW at Haven and Panahghar 	<p>Supporting parents (and children) in specialist accommodation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver Positive Parenting Programmes and other parenting support. • Assess child’s needs and focus on school attendance, child development and therapeutic issues. • Complete Early Help assessments • Liaison with universal services and facilitate development activities with external agencies where appropriate. • Consult with children to ensure their voices are heard within the Partnership.
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Haven/Panahghar FSW

Both services provide support for families with children ranging from unborn – 17years. The average number of children per month that the FSW’s support is 11. Approximately 50 % of the children and young people are on support plans that include Early help, Child in Need, Child Protection and LAC. Parenting support is identified and children’s needs, including communication difficulties, physical or mental health needs, risky behaviours and attitudes or experiencing or exhibiting bullying behaviour are also identified.

- Outcomes

Identifying needs appropriately leads to engagement with early help services, referrals to other commissioned services such as WISH, You and Me, Mum or stay and play. There are a high number of 1-2-1 sessions for individual families and meetings and sessions with professionals. From this, there is evidence of improved school reports, and parents feeling safer and more supported within social care relationship. School attendance is also now being monitored with most children having over 95% attendance rate. There continues to be some challenges for the availability of school places, particularly for families moving into the area.

Valley House FSW

There was currently an average of 65 children supported in the project each quarter during 2023, ranging from unborn to 17 years. This has increased from 2022 when the average number was approximately 52 per quarter. A significant portion were children under 5 – around 47% and approximately 43% of children are on additional support plans including early help, CIN, CP plans.

- Outcomes

Only 1 child was removed from the care of a parent since April 2022, with 16 MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) referrals made. There is an average of 7 children each quarter with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities). Approximately 6 WISH referrals are made each quarter. FSW's provide support to encourage children to attend school or return to school. Performance indicators from Q4 22-23 show that 95% of children and young people feel that the relationship between the non-abusing parent and themselves has improved; there is a 97% school attendance for the children in supported accommodation.

Feedback from Children

Valuable feedback has been received from 8–12-year-olds attending the bi-weekly group at Valley House. They enjoy the sessions and being part of the decision making around the content of the group and future workshops.

Name of service: You and me, Mum (Delivered by Haven, Panahghar, Valley house FSW's and Relate)

Aim/scope of service: Ten-week (plus celebration) parenting programme delivered across the consortium by all Agencies for mothers living in safe accommodation. The aim of which to understand how Domestic Abuse affects the child and parenting. The programme is based upon self-empowerment and self-efficacy, recognising the mother's vital role in the protection and positive development of their child. It has been delivered across several languages including English, Polish and South Asian languages.

Service users – capacity and what is uptake. Sessions delivered.

- Delivered in 10-week blocks; 2-3 blocks started each quarter.
- Approximately 20 service users being referred each quarter with slightly fewer completing the course. Particularly clashes with school terms etc cited as reasons for non-completion.
- Excellent feedback from service users as below

Feedback from service users

"Meeting women in similar situations, knowing I am not alone or the only one."

"Everything about this course so far, great bunch of ladies always make me laugh."

"Child not sleeping in his own bed, Mum feels better able to support him and reports him seeming less scared; I have enjoyed meeting other women in my situation knowing I am not alone; I didn't realise the abuse I was going through was affecting my child. I thought they were too young to understand what was happening"?

"I will teach my sons to treat a woman with love and respect," not how their father treated me."

“I understand how to talk and explain what has happened to my children in an age-appropriate way.”

“I have gained a better relationship with my children, and it has made a positive difference; In front of my child, I pretended the abuse never happened, until after attending a few sessions, I plucked up the courage to speak to my child and realised he was able to recall all the events of abuse I had suffered”.

“I have understood more about DA, I have been able to use the things I have learnt in group to help support with my son’s challenging behaviour; At first, I struggled was scared to discuss the past with my daughter, now, attending this programme, I am able to communicate better with her.”

Appendix 5

Sanctuary Scheme extension

Domestic abuse Safe accommodation Duty Grant:

<p>Extended capacity for additional 100 clients per annum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 x specific support workers worker 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase sanctuary scheme capacity from 100 to 200 premises secured per year enabling 100 additional households to access the additional support provided by the WISH service and Coventry and Warwickshire Mind.
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Aim/scope of service.

- The aim of the Service is to provide a target hardening service to victims of domestic abuse and violence to enable them to remain in their own homes should they wish to, and it is appropriate for them to do so.
- The Safe Partnership works with Coventry Haven to achieve target hardening in relation to the target referral group within the confines of the administrative centre and metropolitan borough of Coventry. The assigned security installer surveys the property; fits the necessary security measures; undertakes the necessary repairs, gives prevention advice.
- The aim is to secure all referral properties within 48 hours of referral. The client is contacted by the Project Co-ordinator as soon as the referral is received to establish tenure and to get permission to speak to the landlord on their behalf if it is a registered social landlord or private tenant. When permission is received from the landlord the co-ordinator will contact the client to make an appointment for the security installer to call and subject to being convenient to the client this will be within 48 hours. The security installer surveys the property, fits the necessary security measures; gives prevention advice and gives feedback to the co-ordinator where necessary. Safe project manages, inspects, monitors, evaluates and reports as required in performance indicators.
- The Sanctuary workers provide specialist additional support for survivors of domestic abuse, including any children, who are living in the community and have received a sanctuary scheme on their accommodation.

Referrals received:

At the commencement of this programme on Q4 of 2021/2022 40 referrals were received resulting in 5 children being referred into the Wish Programme and 20 survivors of domestic abuse being referred into Space2Thrive.

Since this time, the average number of referrals per quarter into the Sanctuary Scheme has increased by 95% to 78, peaking at 98 in Q4 2022/2023.

Approximately 16% of sanctuary scheme referrals are cancelled by the survivor with 14% pending awaiting landlord approval. Occasionally landlords do not allow a sanctuary scheme to be fitted although this number has been reducing since the sanctuary workers have been in place.

Additional work is also ongoing with the Housing and Homelessness Team to ensure that this option is also explored when someone approaches them fleeing domestic abuse as an alternative to being placed in temporary accommodation, providing it is safe to do so.

Further extensions to the sanctuary scheme are also being considered including the use of Ring doorbells and dashcams for victims of stalking behaviours.

Once a sanctuary scheme has been installed on a property the adults and children within these properties become eligible for further support from Space2Thrive, delivered by Coventry and Warwickshire MIND and the WISH programme delivered by Relate Coventry.

Appendix 6

Complex Needs Unit at Valley House

Valley House accommodation	<p>Complex needs unit (7 units of accommodation for people with co-occurring domestic abuse, mental health and / or substance misuse concerns):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported accommodation. • Case management and intensive day care support <p>Independent evaluation ongoing</p>
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Valley House was originally commissioned in 2019 to provide 54 units of safe and supported accommodation for individuals and families escaping domestic abuse. Based on lessons learnt through delivery of the service; identifying gaps in service provision and potential solutions; and reflecting on the findings of the Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment undertaken in 2021, it was agreed that a 7- bed complex needs unit would be piloted at Valley House to support female and male victims, with or without children, experiencing domestic abuse, and assessed as having complex needs – ‘mental health in combination with alcohol and/or drug misuse.’

This service provision has been developed in collaboration with Coventry and Warwickshire Mind; Change, Grow, Live (CGL); Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trist (CWPT) and Coventry ICB.

There is an enhanced level of support for these service users with staff in site between 08:00hrs and 22:00hrs daily and an on-call service between 22:00hrs and 08:00hrs every day. Specialist support is provided for mental health, drugs and alcohol together with daily theme based and therapeutic sessions including counselling, family support where required. All accommodation is self-contained and there is a dedicated groupwork space for the unit.

The aim of the service is to improve access to health services – including GP’s, crisis team, emergency services, provide long term stability and interventions to reduce the ‘revolving door’ process often associated with complex needs and to improve partnership working with the service users.

The complex needs unit is a novel approach and is currently being externally evaluated by EAP Research Consultancy in order to understand the impact and ‘what works’ with this type of service delivery.

Appendix 7

Substance misuse/domestic abuse support

Change Grow Live (substance misuse service)	Contribution to a senior practitioner within the drug and alcohol service to specialise in domestic abuse. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Casework for complex cases• Support for MARAC• Advice and support to CGL in supporting victims of domestic abuse
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Victims of domestic abuse, who also have problematic substance use, are faced with complexities in their support needs including being denied access to refuge accommodation or other specialist safe accommodation. There is evidence that where domestic abuse exists then alcohol misuse is often present, and victims may also resort to alcohol and drugs as a way of escaping the abuse. This post is designed to support those who are receiving support for problematic alcohol or drug use and are experiencing domestic abuse, many of whom are at significant risk of harm due to domestic abuse.

This role with CGL also participates in MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference), and shared information on 54 service users at MARAC this is a mixture of victims and perpetrators who are either open to CGL or have previously been open, dating from the 01/04/2023 to the 30/06/2023.

- Victims open to CGL = 15
- Victims closed to CGL = 13
- Perpetrators open to CGL = 5
- Perpetrators closed to CGL = 21

The number of service users that are open and engaging in treatment with CGL following MARAC discussions averages at 20 per quarter.

Case Study

Kate self-referred to CGL for support with alcohol and cocaine addiction in November 2022. She had separated from her perpetrator after being in a relationship from the age of 19.

From the start of the relationship, she says he encouraged her to sniff cocaine, smoke cannabis and drink vast quantities of alcohol with him. He was always controlling and verbally abusive but states he became physically violent when she was pregnant with their first child. At this point Kate had all 3 children living with her. Kate was granted a non-molestation order against her preparator for 12 months. Her perpetrator then reported her to social care, who undertook a full risk assessment on the family.

The senior practitioner in CGL supported Kate with harm reduction interventions, coping strategies around alcohol and cocaine recovery and held meetings with refuge staff and children's services and FDAC resulting in Kate's attending an alcohol assessment and receiving medication for alcohol cravings and trauma therapy.

Following a relapse Kate was asked to leave refuge but the CGL worker secured her alternative temporary accommodation, but Kate later returned to her own tenancy but had by this time accumulated a significant amount of rent arrears. Kate continued to engage with CGL and remains absent from cocaine and alcohol use and attends regular intervention groups. CGL have supported Kate to report any incidents to the police and engage with mental health services as well as liaising with housing benefits to reduce rent arrears to enable a housing exchange to happen. Kate has been supported to obtain another non-molestation order and has had a referral to the sanctuary scheme and continues to receive emotional and practical support regarding her experiences of domestic abuse.

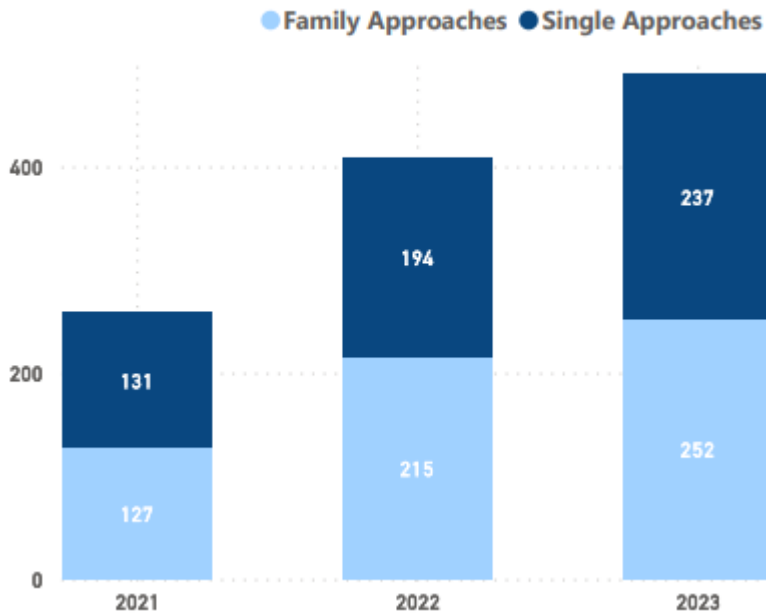
The role of the senior practitioner also involves organising professionals' meetings when no other safeguarding services are involved such as child services and are designed to be a professional coordinated solution led approach to safeguarding the service user. The number of professionals meeting is averaging at 5 per quarter.

This CGL senior practitioner is also attending Valley House and working alongside staff and service users in the complex needs unit and continues to support these service users when they move on from this accommodation.

Appendix 8: Housing and homelessness IDVA provision

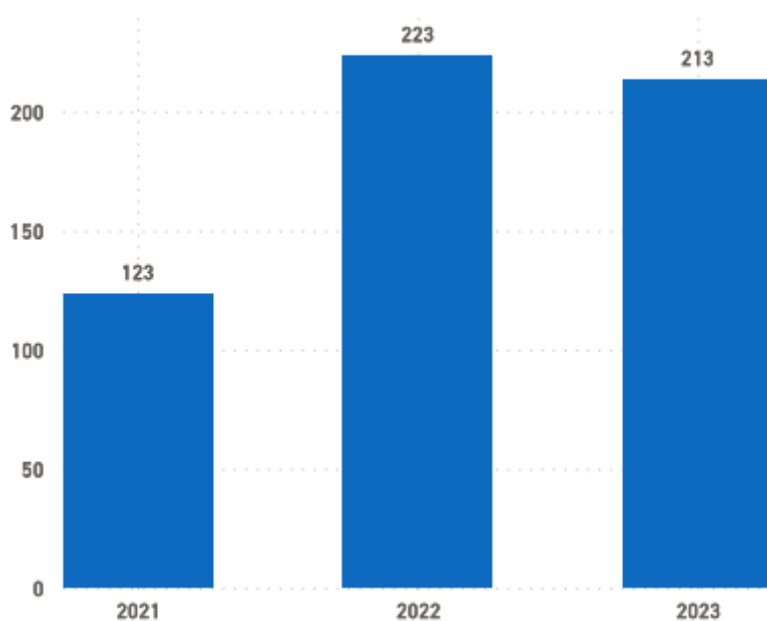
<p>Housing and Homelessness team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 x Housing IDVA's 	<p>Supporting survivors fleeing Domestic Abuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing specialist support to victims approaching the Housing and Homelessness team due to fleeing domestic abuse
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Breakdown of Approaches Due to Domestic Abuse



Since April 2021, the number of households approaching the Housing and Homelessness team due to fleeing domestic abuse has increased significantly as detailed above with increased numbers being accommodated in TA.

Number of Households Accommodated into TA



The role of the Housing IDVA within the Housing and homelessness team is to work with people who present themselves as homeless or at risk of homelessness due to domestic abuse.

Both members of staff are qualified IDVA's (Independent Domestic Abuse Advisors) and a referral to them is triggered automatically when someone contacts Housing and Homelessness at CCC and gives domestic abuse as a reason for their homelessness.

The IDVA's have been fully operational since March 2023, and by October 2023 had received a total of 265 referrals, 233 directly from the Housing and Homelessness team and the remainder from MARAC and already receiving housing assistance for another reason. Of the 265 referrals, 90 are currently open receiving support from the IDVA service.

Additionally, the Housing IDVA's are also playing a key role in the Housing & Homeless service gaining DAHA (Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance) accreditation. To date they have created and delivered a service wide training package and chair the Housing & Homelessness DA Champions Network and play a lead role in the delivery of a new case management system as required by DAHA.

Qualitative feedback

['Special thanks to \(IDVA\) who has saved my life by helping me'](#)

'I just wanted to say a massive thank you for going above and beyond to speak to a parent I am working with to try and resolve and support her with her current housing issues. I heard about thought I would give you a call, unexpecting you to be able to support given it was not one of your open families. But I really appreciate your support with this. (Service user) has a lot of mental health issues andyou made her feel at ease immediately.'