

From: Roger Gough, Leader of the Council
David Cockburn, Chief Executive Officer

To: Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee

Date: 14th September 2022

Subject: Domestic Abuse – The Kent Picture

Classification: UNRESTRICTED

Past Pathway of Paper: None

Future Pathway of Paper: None

Electoral divisions: All

Summary:

On the 4th May 2022, Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee requested an update on domestic abuse following the key decision to accept the safe accommodation funding allocation from national government for 2022/2023.

This paper gives an update on the significant work happening across the domestic abuse agenda, including actions to meet statutory requirements related to the Domestic Abuse Act, and non-statutory provision within the community.

2021/2022 was the first year of the implementation of part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act, with statutory requirements including strategy development, needs assessment completion, and formation and strengthening of governance structures which are detailed within this paper.

In 2021/2022 significant scoping of projects was completed and work achieved as outlined within this paper; however, it has taken time to identify gaps in provision, scope projects and programmes, understand growth capacity within the marketplace and to recruit and maintain staff. Underspend within the safe accommodation budget has been rolled forward with agreement by the Department of Levelling up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).

The paper outlines projects and proposals relating to 2022/2023 across safe accommodation and community services and gives details on additional funding and projects gained through joint bids and partnership working.

Recommendation:

The Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee are asked to note and comment on work across the domestic abuse agenda.

1. Background

- 1.1 Domestic abuse is prolific with around 5.5% of all adults aged 16 – 74 years (2.3 million) experiencing domestic abuse within 12 months (ONS 2021)¹. The impact of domestic abuse on families is far reaching due to the physical, mental, and emotional harm suffered by victims and survivors. The 2020 needs assessment applies national estimates to the Kent and Medway population and found the cost of domestic abuse to society (including loss of productivity) as £2.6bn per year (based on 75,000 annual incidents in Kent and Medway at a cost of £34,015 per victim)². Support in relation to prevention, interventions, and timely justice in this area is crucial.
- 1.2 Domestic abuse is multifaceted and impacts many of the council's services. Work with vulnerable children and adults, mental health and drug and alcohol support, housing, community safety and violence reduction all intersect with people who may have had experiences of domestic abuse, and where the council may be involved in provision of services. Integrated Children's Services sees approximately 80,000 contacts through the Front Door per annum, with 25% of these being direct referrals due to domestic abuse. This however is not the whole story, as many cases supported by both the Social Care and Early Help teams are directly linked to domestic abuse even though this is not the presenting reason for referral.
- 1.3 Because domestic abuse impacts so many areas of council services it also crosses cabinet portfolio areas, spanning adults and children's services, community safety, strategic partnerships, and strategic commissioning.
- 1.4 Prior to the Domestic Abuse Act the council was already committed to the domestic abuse agenda. Since 2003 the council has been funding support to survivors of domestic abuse through Supporting People grant funding. In 2009 when the ring fencing was removed from this grant funding KCC chose to continue investing in domestic abuse support services.
- 1.5 In 2016 KCC brought together partners, including KCC Adult Social Care, KCC Public Health, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), Kent Fire and Rescue Service and nine District and Borough councils to pool budgets and collaboratively commission the Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (KIDAS).
- 1.6 This partnership work aligned disparately commissioned services into a flexible, holistic service model, designed to create clear client pathways and outcomes, offer greater consistency of services, deliver operational

¹ Office of National Statistics (accessed 7.22) 'Domestic abuse prevalence and trends, England and Wales: year ending March 2021

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/domesticabuseprevalenceandtrendsenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2021>

² Kent Public Health Observatory (2020, page 13) 'Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment'

https://www.kpho.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/118651/Domestic-Abuse-Needs-Assessment,-October-2020.pdf

efficiencies, and facilitate improved strategic oversight across services to inform future strategic, tactical, and operational decision-making.

- 1.7 The five-year KIDAS contract was awarded in 2017 (with the opportunity to apply two, two-year extensions) and includes provision of support to adults (aged 16+) both within the community and within safe accommodation services. The Public Health contribution to KIDAS is £295,000 and Adult Social Care £1,741,600 per annum. It has provided a strong platform to attract additional funding into Kent. Following a review, a key decision was taken in August 2021 to utilise the first two-year extension (link in background documents) which extends the contract to March 2024. This contract may be recommissioned at the end of the extension period. The contract has supported the council's response to the new duties under the Act.
- 1.8 KCC has long been involved in, and now manages and supports the Kent and Medway domestic abuse partnership governance structure which includes Kent Police, the Probation Service, the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office, Medway Council, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, Districts, the NHS, and other partners.
- 1.9 This governance structure includes the Kent and Medway Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive Group, chaired by Assistant Chief Constable Tracy Harman, a Tactical Group supporting this work and the new statutory Local Partnership Board (LPB) (further detailed in 2.4 and Appendix A).
- 1.10 In 2019 Kent County Council led on the development, consultation and finalisation of the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy (link in the background documents, this strategy is also available in Easy Read and in British Sign Language). The strategy received sign up from all public sector organisations involved with the partnership. A delivery plan has been developed and is being managed and monitored by KCC officers to ensure delivery against the priorities developed within the strategy. The delivery plan aims to bring together work from across partners to strengthen coordination and collective outcomes and seeks to identify and support work against key projects.
- 1.11 Work against the strategy and delivery plan is in close partnership with all signatories. Collectively we have worked to coordinate local and strategic responses, share research findings, host seminars and regional forums, led on multiagency reviews and sought joint funding for staff across both safe accommodation and community services.
- 1.12 In February 2022, KCC became White Ribbon accredited, formalising the council's commitment to standing up against violence towards women and girls. This work seeks to promote positive cultures through-out our teams and services while raising awareness of services available to help people.

2. Legislation

- 2.1 Domestic abuse services are broadly categorised as either safe accommodation or community-based services.
- Safe accommodation support is often delivered to survivors in a residential setting which is specifically designed to meet the needs of that group. This could include refuge (communal and individual placements) and move on accommodation (as people move out of refuge or other safe accommodation into longer term homes).
 - The statutory guidance of the Domestic Abuse Act expands the definition of safe accommodation services to include Sanctuary (A3.4 of the guidance) where enhanced security measures are installed within a home (and where the perpetrator does not live in the accommodation).
 - Community-based services are provided to people in their local areas, or within their own home, and include for example specialist advocacy support, welfare and mental health support.
- 2.2 In April 2021 the Domestic Abuse Act was passed. Part 4 of the Act gives Tier 1 authorities statutory requirements linked to support within safe accommodation services.
- 2.3 Service data from the 2021/2022 Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (KIDAS) shows that only 8% of service provision has been for those within safe accommodation with the majority of people, (92%), accessing provision within the community, where there remains no statutory underpinning for the funding of these services. Therefore, when considering the council's response to domestic abuse we must look both at the safe accommodation response aligned with the Domestic Abuse Act, and community provision where the majority of access sits.
- 2.4 The below gives an outline of the council's duties under the Domestic Abuse Act. Support services delivered in safe accommodation must be provided to both adult victims and survivors of abuse, and children who witness abuse. The Act gives Tier 2 authorities the duty to support this work.
- 2.5 Under the Act Tier 1, with support from Tier 2 authorities are required to;
- a) *create a Local Partnership Board with responsibility for conducting a needs assessment (forming a gap analysis on safe accommodation support).*

The Kent Local Partnership Board (LPB) is Chaired by Akua Agyepong (Assistant Director, Kent County Council) and Vice Chaired by John Littlemore (Head of Housing and Community Services, Maidstone Borough Council), and was set up in May 2021. The Local Partnership Board includes representation from every district and borough.

A voluntary sector subgroup which includes representation from approximately 20 voluntary sector organisations supports the LPB. This Board is open to all organisations working across the domestic abuse agenda and

actively informs and advises on the work of the LPBs (Kent and Medway) and other partnership groups.

A 'Lived Experience Engagement Programme' (LEEP) has been agreed and will be commissioned to ensure that the voice of those affected by domestic abuse influences the work of the LPB and other governance structures (further detailed in 5.4). Officers are also working with current providers of services to ensure those impacted by abuse shape priorities within partnership agendas.

b) *complete a Domestic Abuse Strategy on safe accommodation.*

The draft Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy was presented to the Kent Community Safety Partnership during its development (17th July 2019 and 8th October 2019) and the Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee in September 2019 (report link in background documents) and launched in March 2020 (strategy link also in background documents). This strategy predated the Domestic Abuse Act and makes within it commitments for those impacted by domestic abuse across both safe accommodation and community provision. Partnership agreement against stated commitments placed KCC and partners in a strong position to develop this work to meet statutory requirements which arose with the Act.

In April 2021 an additional section on support within safe accommodation was drafted, consulted upon, and added to the strategy, which was republished in late 2021.

The current Kent and Medway Strategy concludes in 2023 and drafting and development of the new strategy will commence in early 2023. The strategy development will be based around journey mapping of experience including barriers to support, experiences of response services and longer-term support and justice provision.

c) *to undertake commissioning activity in relation to support in safe accommodation services for both adult survivors and their children, informed by the needs assessment.*

A needs assessment was completed by the Kent Public Health Observatory (in coordination with partners including the Police and Medway) in Oct 2020 which explored cross partnership data across domestic abuse services.

With the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act Kent Analytics created an addition which focused on safe accommodation services in Kent which was published in October 2021 (link in background documents). With the inclusion of children and young people now being recognised as victims of domestic abuse in their own right, work is currently underway to develop a 2022 refresh which will focus on the experiences of children and will be used to shape future provision.

Gaps in services identified to date have informed strategy, commissioning, safe accommodation spend and the formation of the Kent and Medway domestic abuse delivery plan.

d) *monitor delivery against the strategy.*

The Kent and Medway delivery plan has been developed in coordination with partners and covers actions which work across both safe accommodation and community services and monitors the progress against priorities identified within the strategy (managed and monitored by KCC officers). Updates on progress are overseen via the domestic abuse governance structure.

2.6 The Council is required under the statutory guidance of the Domestic Abuse Act (Part 4, B4.7) to ensure that provision of support in safe accommodation under this duty does not lead to cuts in community-based domestic abuse provision (i.e. prohibits the reallocation of monies from community services to safe accommodation services). Kent has significant support within the community in comparison to many local authority areas under the KIDAS contract and has worked with partners to maintain funding to support this provision. This is further detailed in section 5 of this report.

2.7 Links to the Kent Community Safety Partnership

2.7.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 gave statutory responsibilities to local authorities, Kent Police and key partners to reduce crime and disorder in their communities. Under this legislation Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (now Community Safety Partnerships) were required to carry out 3 yearly audits and to implement crime reduction strategies. A formal review of the 1998 Act took place in 2006, with the result that three-year audits were replaced with annual partnership strategic assessments and rolling partnership plans, whilst in two tier authority areas a statutory County Community Safety Agreement was introduced.

2.7.1 The Kent Community Safety Agreement (April 2022 – link in background documents) outlines the key community safety priorities for the county along with the cross-cutting themes that support the identified priorities. Domestic abuse is one of the eight current priorities, and the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) is updated on progress against areas identified.

2.7.2 Statutory guidance for the conduct of Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) directs that establishing a review lies with the local Community Safety Partnership (CSP). CSPs are made up of representatives from the 'responsible authorities', police, local authorities, fire and rescue authorities, probation service and health. Since 2011, the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP), has had lead responsibility for managing DHRs on behalf of all CSPs in Kent and Medway under the Kent and Medway protocol overseen by the Kent & Medway DHR Steering Group.

2.7.3 Since the legislation was enacted in 2011, it has been necessary to commission 40 DHRs in Kent and Medway. Of those DHRs commissioned,

the cases are distributed across all Districts/Boroughs in Kent and Medway. Nearly three quarters of the victims/deceased are female and the ages of those who have died range from late teens to those in their 80s. Over half of cases relate to intimate partner homicides, a fifth relate to suicides where there was intimate partner abuse and about a quarter are adult familial homicide. Recommendations from DHRs have impacted the development of the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy and the actions within the delivery plan which support this. The Kent and Medway Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive Group are responsible for meeting a number of DHR actions.

3. Safe accommodation funding

- 3.1 In March 2021, following a key decision by the Leader, the council agreed to accept £3,103,909 of funding to support the meeting of new statutory duties under the Domestic Abuse Act (link within background documents). The monies were received in April 2021, and the draft statutory guidance (part 4, which relates to local authority duties) was consulted upon and finalised by DLUHC in October 2021.
- 3.2 While DLUHC confirmed that monies were to be allocated yearly, they were not able to offer assurances around amount, or clarity around when funding allocations would be announced. This has impacted the council's ability to plan spend. The 2022/2023 allocation was not announced by DLUHC until February 2022. Projects scoped therefore need to be flexible with the ability to be scaled up or down dependent on financial allocations available.
- 3.3 In 2021/2022 £2,060,467 of the safe accommodation funding was committed (projects detailed below) and £1,043,442 was unspent and rolled forward into 2022/2023. This roll over was approved by DLUHC, with many other local authorities also reporting a similar position.
- 3.4 In May 2022 the Leader made a second key decision to accept year 2 funding of £3,112,501 (link within background documents). This, combined with the underspend from 2021/2022, gives the council a total of £4,155,943 to spend in 2022/2023 on meeting the statutory duties within the Domestic Abuse Act, being aware that due to rollover this is a larger allocation than we can expect in future years.
- 3.5 Funding used to support the Domestic Abuse Act can only be spent on revenue costs, specifically support for those within safe accommodation and costs associated with meeting the duties outlined in Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act.
- 3.6 The council has continued to support community-based provision through Adult Social Care and Public Health funding into the Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse contract. This is detailed further under point 6 of the report.

4. Safe accommodation projects

- 4.1 Proposals for safe accommodation projects were underpinned by the work and evidence gathered as part of the needs assessment. The 2021 needs assessment completed by Kent Analytics identified the following.
- Barriers to access for those with mental health or substance misuse support needs.
 - A need to help people move on from refuge and dispersed accommodation into more permanent accommodation.
 - A requirement for consistent provision for children across safe accommodation.
 - A high geographical variation in the provision of sanctuary schemes (security provision in an existing home)
 - A need for increased support options for men who have experienced abuse.
- 4.2 Funding allocations have sought to meet these gaps. The table in Appendix B illustrates 2021/2022 spend on safe accommodation projects. Appendix C shows allocations for 2022/2023 including repeat allocations (extensions of the 2021/2022 projects which are shaded in orange). Below some detail is given about these areas of spend.
- 4.3 Barriers to access
- 4.3.1 People who have multiple needs, such as mental health or substance misuse needs, may require intensive support. This can lead to longer stays in refuge and in the most severe cases, people may be declined a place in refuge due to their needs being too high to manage with the current staffing resource.
- 4.3.2 To improve access to support within safe accommodation for these individuals, Specialist Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) were funded across the county for 2021/2022, at a cost of £400,000.
- 4.3.3 Specialist IDVAs provide a dedicated, intensive, specialist resource delivering a joined-up, multi-agency support package, liaising with key organisations such as mental health services, substance misuse treatment services and criminal justice agencies to deliver consistency and positive outcomes for these vulnerable clients.
- 4.3.4 Throughout 2021/2022, 139 people were supported by these specialist roles. Secondary needs included alcohol or drug misuse, those from a Gypsy, Roma or Traveller heritage who have support needs, those with learning disabilities or mental health support needs and young people leaving care. This allocation is repeated in 2022/2023.
- 4.3.5 Additional funding (£80,000) has also strengthened and expedited access to trauma support for adult survivors residing in commissioned refuge to further

complement the service offer for those with multiple needs. As shown in Appendix B and C this spend is in 2021/2022 and increases to £180,000 for 2022/2023.

4.4 Supporting people to move out of refuge

4.4.1 A key area highlighted by the needs assessment are the challenges related to survivors accessing appropriate 'move on' or 'secondary' accommodation. The new funding can only be spent on support within safe accommodation, not bricks and mortar, therefore Tenancy Support Workers were introduced, at a cost of £160,000.

4.4.2 These roles involve engaging with the local landlords and housing departments to raise awareness of domestic abuse and improve the opportunities available to survivors leaving refuge. This promotes the ability for survivors to move on from refuge when they are ready rather than waiting up to six months for an appropriate property to become available. This in turn increases throughput in the refuges and ability to provide support to further people in this setting. As shown in Appendix B and C this spend is in 2021/2022 and repeated for 2022/2023.

4.5 Support provision for children

4.5.1 The Domestic Abuse Act identifies children who witness domestic abuse as victims in their own right. In 2021/2022 there were 182 children that accompanied their mother in refuge services delivered through KIDAS.

4.5.2 The needs assessment found that support services for children in safe accommodation were not sustainably funded or equitable across the county. Therapeutic services for children were included as an addition into the existing KIDAS contract in 2021/2022 at a cost of £200,500. This includes recruitment of play therapy workers and access to counselling and therapeutic services for children residing in commissioned refuge services.

4.5.3 A piece of research was commissioned to understand young people's experiences of domestic abuse, focusing on how young people would like to access support. Those involved in the research highlighted the importance of prevention, identification of domestic abuse through service awareness and the importance of different forms of support including one to one, group support and family support. These research findings, alongside market engagement workshops are being used to inform services from 2022/2023 onwards.

4.5.4 Allocation of monies in 2022/2023 to support children have been significantly increased (£700,000 Appendix C) to enable expansion of support for children into sanctuary provision. Key to this service development is both co-production with wider stakeholders and embedding the voice of young people in provision, both in initial scoping and ongoing development of service design. Additional 2022/2023 spend is explored below.

5. **Safe Accommodation projects 2022/2023**

5.1 As described above spend on barriers to access (specialist IDVA provision), tenancy support, enhanced therapeutic support and support provision for children are maintained or increased within the 2022/2023 allocation.

5.2 Sanctuary schemes and Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance Accreditation

5.2.1 Under the Act, sanctuary schemes are security items or measures applied to a person's home, improving the opportunity for them to remain in their local community, alongside the provision of support.

5.2.2 Existing sanctuary provisions across the county are managed locally, by Districts and Boroughs with the emphasis being around security and safety. Clients are referred into KIDAS for community-based support where required. The inclusion of sanctuary within the governmental definition of safe accommodation offers a significant opportunity to increase the breadth of those who can benefit from support under the Domestic Abuse Act.

5.2.3 In 2021/2022 scoping started to explore options for developing an equitable sanctuary service across all 12 districts and boroughs. This would include security measures and support to both adults and children residing in their own homes. This work is continuing in 2022/2023.

5.2.4 Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance Accreditation (DAHA) is also being explored with district and boroughs in partnership with the Kent Housing Group and will support geographically consistent housing team responses to those impacted by abuse.

5.3 Support options for male survivors

5.3.1 While men who have experienced domestic abuse can access dispersed units of safe accommodation, they are unable to access communal accommodation within Kent. The needs assessment found that this was an area that could be further developed, and scoping work has been carried out in relation to a male refuge pilot.

5.3.2 In March 2021, Kent Analytics finalised research where they conducted 16 in depth interviews with men who had experienced domestic abuse and surveyed 238 respondents. Findings suggested that a refuge offer which could also accommodate children should be explored. A pilot offering male refuge accommodation is being established this financial year and the findings of the research are being incorporated into the pilot.

5.4 The Lived Experience Engagement Programme (LEEP)

5.4.1 The Lived Experience Engagement Programme (LEEP) has been scoped with partners and will work to ensure that the experiences of people who have been impacted by domestic abuse influence and develop priorities. This model is shaped around a number of reference groups where membership is able to flux and change and where people who have experienced abuse are able to explore different themes. This model allows for discussion around specific experiences which may impact those with different intersectional protected characteristics.

5.5 Overview of safe accommodation

5.5.1 In total, of the £3.1m new funding, £2,060,467 was committed in 2021/2022. The remaining £1,043,442 was approved by DLUHC to be rolled forward into 2022/2023 for continued delivery against the new duties. The Local Partnership Board is consulted on spend against safe accommodation duties and influences the development of spend proposals.

5.5.2 Because the majority of people are supported within the community, CMT, both in June 2021 and in July 2022 agreed to redirect the existing Adult Social Care and Public Health contribution for KIDAS support within safe accommodation into community services. This increased the budget available for support in the community and provided monies which could be utilised on capital costs.

6. Community based provision

6.1 The £2.3m partnership funded KIDAS contract includes safe accommodation and community-based provision. Of the annual funding committed to the contract, £1,380,050 is used for existing community-based provision.

6.2 KIDAS community-based support includes:

- flexible person-centred support delivered by specialist staff to both high and medium risk victims of domestic abuse,
- multi-agency access points in local communities,

- delivery of therapeutic and supportive activities to promote independence and future healthy relationships,
 - a private sector rented access scheme and
 - a countywide training, education, and awareness service, supporting campaigns which aim to raise awareness of domestic abuse and support routes.
- 6.3 A portion of the new DA Act funding (£938,295) has replaced existing KIDAS funding for support delivered within safe accommodation, allowing the same amount of ASCH funding to be released and reinvested in community-based support. As non-statutory spend there is more flexibility of options which could include capital costs, support within the community, prevention or safeguarding. Limitations are linked to B4.7 of the statutory guidance (part 4) within the DA Act, there should be no reduction in community-based provision.
- 6.4 Proposals to utilise this reinvested ASC money were scoped in 2021/2022 and informed by the needs assessment, feedback from local forums, providers, and available research. These were agreed at CMT in June 2021 and aimed to address:
- gaps in community provision,
 - areas not eligible for funding via the Act such as equipment costs for sanctuary schemes,
 - projects to support workforce and delivery including development of survivors' voice approaches and training for IDVAs
- 6.5 Due to the lack of certainty around future Domestic Abuse Act funding allocations, commissioning posts were recruited to on a fixed term basis which proved challenging. Year 2 allocations were not announced until February 2022 and late notification prevented fixed term contracts being extended in a timely manner, impacting staff retention. This has resulted in further recruitment activity and impeded progress on commissioning activity, particularly the delivery of community ambitions and expenditure of redirected funding, with £835,960 being unspent and returned to ASCH.
- 6.6 Projects have been scoped for delivery in 2022/2023 and agreed at CMT, these are detailed within Appendix D, and include:
- provision of young person's IDVAs, specialists trained to work with young people (aged 16-25 years) who are impacted by domestic abuse. This project has received 25% funding from the Ministry of Justice, awarded through the Police and Crime Commissioners Office.
 - continuation of additional outreach workers to meet an increased demand for support. This project has received 43% of funding from the Ministry of Justice awarded through the Police and Crime Commissioners Office.

- community access, working with local domestic abuse forums on projects to challenge barriers to access.
- developing a legal support pilot, legal support has been flagged by providers and domestic abuse forums as a crucial area of need. Proposals are being developed to increase the availability of high-quality legal advice and support to aid survivors and victims of abuse.
- media and communications, awareness raising around definitions, impact and service provision of abuse is essential to reduce barriers to reporting and to ensure that services are understood to be available to everyone. A wide-reaching communications campaign supports this work.
- capital costs relating to both sanctuary provision and the male refuge pilot.
- partnership projects including funding to support and strengthen multiagency risk assessment conferences (MARAC).

7. Additional funding and projects 2021/2022

- 7.1 Additional funding of £631,000 was secured from other funding sources to further complement and strengthen the community-based provision. These were secured in 2021/2022. A summary is provided below and in Appendix E.
- 7.2 Successful partnership working between Adults Strategic Commissioning and the NHS has achieved £260,000 health funding to support Hospital Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (HIDVAs). This service was initiated in 2018 utilising short term grant funding and delivers support to patients and training to staff across acute hospitals in two NHS Trusts.
- 7.3 Two further bids from Adult Strategic Commissioning in partnership with KIDAS secured £206,000 from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) to fund additional IDVA and Outreach staff within the community to meet an increase in demand seen since the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 7.4 Successful funding bids have also been made by Public Health and Children's and Young People teams in 2021/2022, for projects to support the domestic abuse agenda, these include:
- £150,000 from the Covid Management Outbreak Funding (COMF) to deliver programmes to survivors entitled 'Understanding Trauma'.
 - £15,000 of Reconnect funding to deliver a DA Animation for Children and Young People.

8. Staffing

- 8.1 The monies from the new burdens allocation have allowed for the recruitment of staff across divisions (Public Health, Strategic Commissioning

and Strategy, Policy and Corporate Assurance, including Kent Analytics), creating a multidisciplinary team which can work across skill sets to support the domestic abuse agenda. Work is ongoing to explore options for a single domestic abuse team which would bring together skill sets under one reporting management structure.

- 8.2 To date staff have developed partnership strategy, programme delivery, partnership governance management, best practice insight, research projects, a focus on both adult and children's commissioning projects, successful jointly funded bids and the utilisation of public health approaches to change.
- 8.3 Kent County Council is now managing a significant partnership governance structure focused on moving towards shared aims to improve the response to those impacted by abuse as well as coordinating regional meetings. Staff are supporting KCC's White Ribbon accreditation process, and are working collaboratively with Police, the NHS and Medway Council to complete and instigate a Multiagency Risk Assessment Conference review, and work to redevelop the model to support stronger safeguarding and information sharing.

9. Financial implications

- 9.1 Due to roll over we have a larger allocation of funds through safe accommodation spend than we can expect in 2021/2022. Projects have been developed so that they can be scaled up (if more money is received, or bids are successful), or scaled down as financial allocations reduce. Decisions on how future spend should be prioritised will depend on evidence (including survivor's voice) and evaluation which is supported by staff across functions.
- 9.2 As noted in 6.4 spend in 2021/2022 has been impacted by the insecure nature of the funding allocation, late announcements of funding from DLUHC and staffing capacity.
- 9.3 While risk remains that the 2022/2023 allocation may not be spent in full within the financial year, a decision has been made to recruit on a permanent basis to support the pipeline of works. Recruitment has now been completed across the majority of posts. The council has developed positive relations with DLUHC and will continue to express the need for longer term funding settlements and options for reserve planning as regulations are not clear under current guidance.

- 9.4 Progression against activity and expenditure of safe accommodation funding is managed through the New Burdens Funding Steering Group. This is a working group which includes the Chair of the Local Partnership Board, Public Health, Strategy, Policy and Corporate Assurance, Strategic Commissioning and Finance. This group reports to a KCC Domestic Abuse Group, the Local Partnership Board and ultimately the Corporate Management Team.
- 9.5 Finance resource has also been allocated to ensure robust financial management of allocations.

10. Data Protection Implications

- 10.1 Individual projects will be assessed as they progress to ensure that the council is meeting requirements in relation to information governance.

11. Equality Implications

- 11.1 Protected characteristics and the intersectionality of these directly impacts risk of domestic abuse and the types of abuse which an individual may experience. This risk is documented within the Equalities Impact Assessment for the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy (Appendix F). The data supporting this is embedded as Appendix G.
- 11.2 Equality impact screenings and (when needed) assessments will be completed for projects as they develop.

12. Conclusion:

- 12.1 This paper gives an update on the significant work, which is happening across the domestic abuse agenda, including both statutory requirements, and non-statutory provision within the community.
- 12.2 Officers have worked to identify proposals for spend. The proposals are underpinned by the work and evidence base gathered as part of the needs assessment, research into domestic abuse and qualitative research conducted by Kent Analytics. Proposals are also informed by work against the strategy and multiple partnership subgroups which support this structure.
- 12.3 2021/2022 was the first year of the implementation of the Domestic Abuse Act, and as such, it has taken time to identify gaps, scope projects and programmes, understand growth capacity within the marketplace and to recruit and maintain staff. This has impacted spend for 2021/2022 with underspend being rolled forward with agreement by the Department of

Levelling up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). Monies have been announced with short lead in times which in practice means that projects need to be scalable to financial allocations.

- 12.4 The paper provides information on 2022/2023 allocations across safe accommodation and community services. The safe accommodation projects for 2022/2023 were agreed at CMT and support the council's ambition to address the gaps identified in the 2021 needs assessment.

Recommendation:

- The Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee are asked to note and comment on work across the domestic abuse agenda.

12. Background documents

Key Decision, Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Contract Extension

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?Id=2513&txtonly=1>

Domestic Abuse Strategy: Report to Policy and Resources Committee (9.2019)

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s92188/Item%208%20-%20Domestic%20Abuse%20Strategy%20PR%2020.9.19.pdf>

The Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy, <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/community-safety-and-crime-policies/domestic-abuse-strategy>

Domestic Abuse, Full needs assessment for Kent and Medway, and 2021 needs assessment update (Kent only) <https://www.kpho.org.uk/health-intelligence/population-groups/domestic-abuse#tab1>

[Kent Community Safety Agreement April 2022](#)

2021 Key decision: new burdens funding

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s103116/21-00040%20-%20Decision%20Report.pdf>

2022 Key decision, domestic abuse duty 2022/2023

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s110617/Item%209%20-%20Report%20DA%20Safe%20accommodation%20PR%20V3.pdf>

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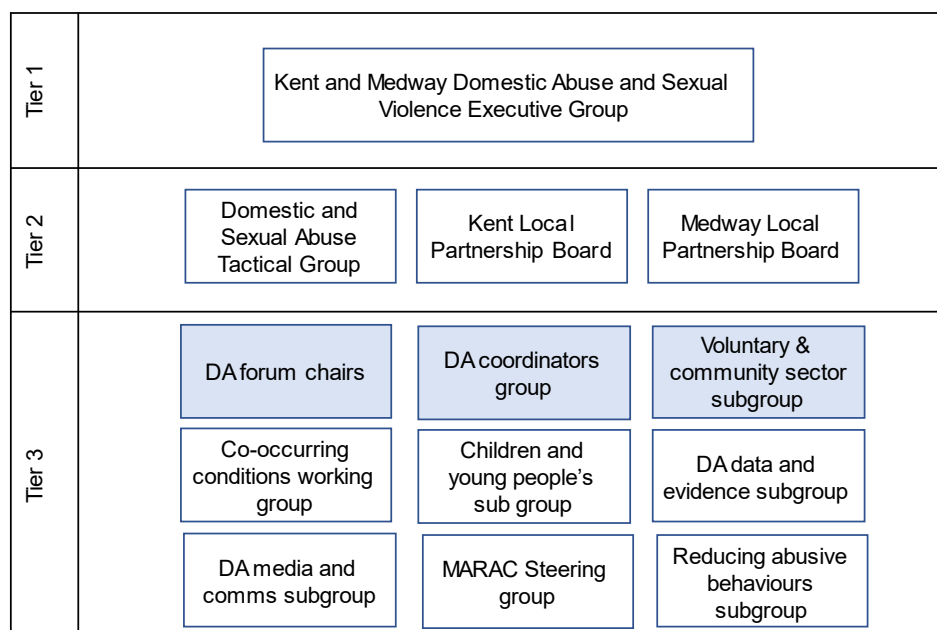
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Appendix A: Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Partnership Structure



Appendix B:

2021/2022 spend, safe accommodation (DA Act) funding.

Specialist IDVAs	£400,000
Additional trauma support for victims residing in commissioned refuge	£80,000
Tenancy support officers	£160,000
Support for children residing in commissioned refuge	£200,500
Research into children's experiences of domestic abuse	£7,305.50
Strategy costs	£1,100
Redirected funding to community support (spend on existing refuge provision in KIDAS)	£938,295
Staffing	£273,269
Total spent	£2,060,467

Appendix C:

Safe accommodation 2022/2023, planned spend:

Specialist IDVA provision (as 21/22)	£400,000
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Enhanced adults therapeutic support (as 21/22)	£180,000
Tenancy support (as 21/22)	£160,000
Children's support – robust and equitable therapeutic provision for children residing in all forms of safe accommodation	£700,000
Support in Sanctuary – robust outreach support for individuals residing in their home where increased security/sanctuary measures have been applied.	£350,000
Domestic Housing Alliance Accreditation (DAHA)	£78,000
Male safe accommodation pilot (18 months)	£300,000
Refuge, co-occurring conditions pilot	£200,000
Voice of the survivor (LEEP and Research Programme funds)	£125,000
Cyber support for those accessing refuge	£15,000
Spend to be allocated via the Local Partnership Board	£68,000
Staffing	£640,789
Redirected funding to community support (spend on existing refuge provision in KIDAS) (as 21/22)	£938,295
Unallocated	£859
Total	£4,155,943

Appendix D:

Communities 2022/2023, planned spend:

KIDAS Community Support	£1,380,050
Complement PCC funding for young person IDVAs	£84,000
Complement PCC funding for additional outreach workers	£73,500
Community access projects	£120,000
Legal support pilot	£75,000
Enhanced media and communications	£55,000
Sanctuary schemes	£400,000
Male refuge pilot	£10,000
Partnership projects	£120,000
Total	£2,317,550

Appendix E: Additional funding 2021/2022

Hospital IDVAs (CCG)	£260,000
Additional IDVA and Outreach posts (Ministry of Justice)	£206,000
Understanding Trauma (Covid Management Outbreak Funding)	£150,000
CYPE Domestic Abuse animation (Reconnect)	£15,000
Total	£631,000

Appendix F: Equality Impact Assessment

Equality Impact Assessment – Domestic Abuse Duty 2022 to 2023



2022-04-14

Domestic Abuse Duty

Appendix G: Data & Evidence for Equality Impact Assessment



Data & Evidence for
Equality Analysis.docx