



## EQIA Submission Draft

### Section A

1. Name of Activity (EQIA Title):	Procure new service to support children and young people in Safe Accommodation (Safe Accommodation Support Service, SASS)
2. Directorate	Children Young people and Education
3. Responsible Service/Division	Integrated Children's Services

### Accountability and Responsibility

4. Officer completing EQIA	Emily Jones
5. Head of Service	Christy Holden
6. Director of Service	Stuart Collins

### The type of Activity you are undertaking

#### 7. What type of activity are you undertaking?

<b>Tick if Yes</b>	<b>Activity Type</b>
	<b>Service Change</b> – operational changes in the way we deliver the service to people.
	<b>Service Redesign</b> – restructure, new operating model or changes to ways of working
	<b>Project/Programme</b> – includes limited delivery of change activity, including partnership projects, external funding projects and capital projects.
Yes	<b>Commissioning/Procurement</b> – means commissioning activity which requires commercial judgement.
	<b>Strategy /Policy</b> – includes review, refresh or creating a new document
	<b>Other</b> – Please add details of any other activity type here.

### 8. Aims and Objectives and Equality Recommendations

#### Context:

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 placed new duties on local authorities across England to ensure that victims of domestic abuse and their children can access the right support in safe accommodation when they need it. In May 2022, the Leader made a key decision to accept Year 2 funding of New Burdens Funding totalling £3,112,501. This money was allocated to Local Authorities for the delivery of their domestic abuse duties outlined in the Act.

It is proposed to commission a support service for children and young people 0-19 (up to 25 with additional needs) who are residing in 'safe accommodation' as defined by the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. This is a new service which will ensure Kent County Council is meeting its statutory duty to provide domestic abuse support for those in safe accommodation.

#### Aims and Objectives:

The service will provide:

- 1-1 work such as play therapy and counselling
- Group work such as support groups and peer support

If a different type of support is needed, the service will have the capability to purchase external therapeutic support or non-therapeutic activities if they can be seen to be improving the young person's personalised outcomes.

Robust contract management of the service will lead to better outcomes for children and young people in Kent who have been impacted by domestic abuse.

Procuring this Safe Accommodation service will support the delivery of our Safe Accommodation Strategy by supporting children and young people who are victims and survivors in their own right.

### **Summary of equality impact:**

This EqIA finds that there is a low adverse equality impact rating. It was found the impact of this work to be positive across all groups and therefore supports the Equality Act 2010.

This service will offer support for victims and survivors in *all* types of safe accommodation, including sanctuary schemes, therefore able to provide support for those with protected characteristics that may experience barriers to accessing refuge support (such as large families, male victims and survivors). The flexibility in the support service to be needs-led means that the service can work with the children and young people where barriers may exist, for example, those with physical disabilities getting to a location for support.

## **Section B – Evidence**

<b>9. Do you have data related to the protected groups of the people impacted by this activity?</b> <i>Answer: Yes/No</i>	Yes
<b>10. Is it possible to get the data in a timely and cost effective way?</b> <i>Answer: Yes/No</i>	Yes
<b>11. Is there national evidence/data that you can use?</b> <i>Answer: Yes/No</i>	Yes
<b>12. Have you consulted with Stakeholders?</b> <i>Answer: Yes/No</i> Stakeholders are those who have a stake or interest in your project which could be residents, service users, staff, members, statutory and other organisations, VCSE partners etc.	Yes
<b>13. Who have you involved, consulted and engaged with?</b> <i>Please give details in the box provided. This may be details of those you have already involved, consulted and engaged with or who you intend to do so with in the future. If the answer to question 12 is 'No', please explain why.</i>	

In 2021 KCC commissioned a piece of research which involved a series of interviews with children and young people (aged 9-20) who had previously used domestic abuse services to explore which aspects of Domestic Abuse support they found most effective. The findings from this were incorporated into the initial service design.

The service model was co-produced with statutory partners (such as police, public health, social workers, early help workers, children's centre managers, practice development officers) through a series of workshops.

Market engagement was conducted in September 2022 through a Prior Information Notice on Kent Business Portal. Organisations were given the opportunity to have 1-1 meetings with Children's Commissioning to comment and give feedback on a draft specification. Feedback from these meetings were incorporated into the final service specification.

In October 2022, Children's Commissioning worked with the Participation team and Kent Youth Council to consult young people on the proposed service. A workshop was held to gain young people's feedback on the service by way of a case study of young people using the proposed service. The feedback provided by the young people was incorporated into the specification.

It is important to note that it was not deemed appropriate to seek out young people who were victims and survivors of domestic abuse to consult with.

<b>14. Has there been a previous equality analysis (EQIA) in the last 3 years? Answer: Yes/No</b>	No
<b>15. Do you have evidence/data that can help you understand the potential impact of your activity?</b> Answer: Yes/No	Yes – Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment (2020, 2021)
<b>Uploading Evidence/Data/related information into the App</b>	

### Section C – Impact

**16. Who may be impacted by the activity? Select all that apply.**

Service users/clients Answer: Yes/No	Yes	Residents/Communities/Citizens Answer: Yes/No	Yes
Staff/Volunteers Answer: Yes/No	Yes		

**17. Are there any positive impacts for all or any of the protected groups as a result of the activity that you are doing? Answer: Yes/No**

**18. Please give details of Positive Impacts**

#### Age and Safe Accommodation:

Children who have been impacted by domestic abuse are now considered victims in their own right. The current Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Support (KIDAS) contract provides support for those aged 16+. This service aims to bridge the gap in young people's domestic abuse support in Kent and will help children to process their emotions and experiences and offer a safe space to explore healthy family relationships. Where adults in need of support come in to contact with this service, they will be referred to adult support service. This, alongside the KIDAS contract, will ensure all ages are able to access domestic abuse support in Kent.

#### Disability and Safe Accommodation:

The 2021 Needs Assessment noted a lack of accessible accommodation options within refuge for those with

limited mobility, presenting a barrier to accessing this form of DA support. This service is needs-led and therefore the physical location of support can be determined by where best suits the child or young person, including in their own home where a risk assessment finds it appropriate, therefore ensuring those with disabilities are able to access support. Visual and audial impairments will be supported through access to BSL support.

The service will work to accommodate needs of service users to enable them to access the support. The eligibility of the service will be up to 25 years old for those with additional needs.

### **Safe Accommodation and Sex:**

Currently all refuge spaces in Kent are for those who identify as women and up to two children. The 2021 needs assessment showed that there are barriers for families with male teenagers accessing refuge. As this service will provide support in *all* types of safe accommodation, including sanctuary schemes, it will not be subject to the same barriers as refuge provision and will be able to provide support in instances where families may not be able to access refuge. For example, male teenagers and where the victim/survivor identifies as male. Where appropriate, these families' children could be supported in their own homes where sanctuary provision is in place.

### **Safe Accommodation and Gender Identity:**

The service will be offered to all eligible children and young people regardless of their gender identity.

Trans women and their children are able to access refuges across Kent and will therefore be able to access support for their children in refuge through this service.

### **Safe Accommodation and Race:**

Arrangements in the service will be made if there are children and young people who need interpreters or information in other languages. Mapping work is starting to identify services delivered by and for minority ethnic groups.

### **Safe Accommodation and Religion and Belief**

The service will be promoted to all communities, faith requirements accommodated where possible and local faith leaders identified as required. Interfaith forums have been used to increase awareness and discussion amongst faith leaders of domestic abuse.

### **Safe Accommodation and Sexual Orientation:**

Statistics suggest that people in gay relationships are just as likely as those in heterosexual relationships to experience domestic abuse (please see below). The Office of National Statistics has found that bisexual women are nearly twice as likely to have experienced partner abuse in the last 12 months than heterosexual women (10.9% compared with 6.0%).<sup>1</sup>

Gay, lesbian, and bisexual people may experience additional barriers to reporting abuse, for example through 'outing'. They may also have to challenge the view of domestic abuse as occurring only within heterosexual contexts. As with other groups it is likely that there is currently under-reporting of domestic abuse in gay and lesbian relationships.

---

<sup>1</sup> Office for National Statistics (2018) 'Women most at risk of experiencing partner abuse in England and Wales: years ending March 2015 to 2017'

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/womenmostatriskofexperiencingpartnerabuseinenglandandwales/yearsendingmarch2015to2017>

The proposed service will acknowledge the need to ensure that support is available for all survivors of abuse and that support services can be tailored to the needs of people in the context of their protected characteristics including sexual orientation. The service will be offered to all eligible children and young people regardless of sexual orientation. The service will have capacity to identify and signpost to other agencies that offer specialist support.

#### **Safe Accommodation and Pregnancy and Maternity:**

Pregnancy may be a trigger for domestic abuse to commence or escalate. It is also a time when survivors may be at elevated risk. Domestic violence is associated with an increase in rates of miscarriage, low birth weight, premature birth, foetal injury, and foetal death. Eligibility for the service will follow after a live birth where the family is residing in safe accommodation. The service will have capacity to signpost and promote use of support services such as baby massage courses to promote bonding.

#### **Negative Impacts and Mitigating Actions**

The questions in this section help to think through positive and negative impacts for people affected by your activity. Please use the Evidence you have referred to in Section B and explain the data as part of your answer.

##### **19. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Age**

a) Are there negative impacts for age? Answer: Yes/No <i>(If yes, please also complete sections b, c, and d).</i>	No
b) Details of Negative Impacts for Age	
c) Mitigating Actions for age	
d) Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions - Age	

##### **20. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Disability**

a) Are there negative impacts for Disability? Answer: Yes/No <i>(If yes, please also complete sections b, c, and d).</i>	No
b) Details of Negative Impacts for Disability	
c) Mitigating Actions for Disability	

d) Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions - Disability	
<b>21. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Sex</b>	
a) Are there negative impacts for Sex? Answer: Yes/No <i>(If yes, please also complete sections b, c, and d).</i>	No
b) Details of Negative Impacts for Sex	
c) Mitigating Actions for Sex	
d) Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions - Sex	
<b>22. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender</b>	
a) Are there negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender? Answer: Yes/No <i>(If yes, please also complete sections b, c, and d).</i>	No
b) Details of Negative Impacts for Gender identity/transgender	
c) Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender	
d) Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions - Gender identity/transgender	
<b>23. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Race</b>	
a) Are there negative impacts for Race? Answer: Yes/No <i>(If yes, please also complete sections b, c, and d).</i>	No
b) Details of Negative Impacts for Race	
c) Mitigating Actions for Race	

d) Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions - Race	
<b>24. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Religion and belief</b>	
a) Are there negative impacts for Religion and Belief? Answer: Yes/No (If yes, please also complete sections b, c, and d).	No
b) Details of Negative Impacts for Religion and belief	
c) Mitigating Actions for Religion and belief	
d) Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions - Religion and belief	
<b>25. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation</b>	
a) Are there negative impacts for sexual orientation. Answer: Yes/No (If yes, please also complete sections b, c, and d).	No
b) Details of Negative Impacts for Sexual Orientation	
c) Mitigating Actions for Sexual Orientation	
d) Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions - Sexual Orientation	
<b>26. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity</b>	
a) Are there negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity? Answer: Yes/No (If yes, please also complete sections b, c, and d).	No
b) Details of Negative Impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity	

c) Mitigating Actions for Pregnancy and Maternity	
d) Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions - Pregnancy and Maternity	
<b>27. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for marriage and civil partnerships</b>	
a) Are there negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships? Answer: Yes/No (If yes, please also complete sections b, c, and d).	No
b) Details of Negative Impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships	
c) Mitigating Actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships	
d) Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions - Marriage and Civil Partnerships	
<b>28. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities</b>	
a) Are there negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities? Answer: Yes/No (If yes, please also complete sections b, c, and d).	No
b) Details of Negative Impacts for Carer's Responsibilities	
c) Mitigating Actions for Carer's responsibilities	
d) Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions - Carer's Responsibilities	