

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

**DECISION TAKEN BY:** Richard Smith, Corporate Director,  
Adult Social Care and Health

**DECISION NO:**  
OD/25/00026

**For publication**

**Subject matter:** Domestic Abuse Act Framework Projects

**Cabinet Member decision to which this action relates:** Key decision 23/00060 sets out parameters for the management of the DA Act funding 2023-2025 ('Domestic Abuse Framework'). This arrangement has been extended under key decision 25/00033 - Extension of Domestic Abuse Act Framework and KIDAS contract.

**Decision:**

**As Corporate Director for Adult Social Care and Health, I agree to:**

Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation grant funding to be used to deliver new projects in line with the Domestic Abuse Act Framework. This includes the following;

- Expansion of Enhanced Therapeutic Support service
- Safe Accommodation awareness raising
- Cyber Sanctuary pilot
- Expansion of Male refuge

**Reason(s) for decision:**

Key decision 25/00033, taken by the Leader in March 2025, agreed to continue the Domestic Abuse Framework 2025-27. Under this Framework all expenditure of Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation grant funding must be in line with budget forecasting and adhere to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Guidance and Memorandum of Understanding terms. Additionally, proposals for spend must meet one of the following criteria:

- A.** Will support the council in conducting its statutory functions under the DA Act which include assessing need, preparation, publication, monitoring and delivery of strategies, commissioning activity and mandatory reporting back to central Government.
- B.** Will improve, develop, or maintain specialist support to people who have experienced domestic abuse (adults and children) residing in 'safe accommodation', as defined by the DA Act, (this includes Refuge accommodation, Specialist Safe accommodation, Dispersed accommodation, Sanctuary Schemes and Second stage accommodation) to meet gaps identified through the needs assessment.

Following an uplift in KCC's grant allocation for 2025-26 of £800k, a Working Group was established. The purpose of this Group is to scope and develop new projects, to support the council in meeting its statutory duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, and address gaps in support provision, identified through needs assessments.

This Officer ROD is to support implementation of the first phase of projects that have been developed by the Group, all of which meet the Framework criteria **B**.

Project	Description	Duration
Expansion of Enhanced Therapeutic Support service	Expansion of access to additional trauma informed support and counselling to survivors residing within safe accommodation through the provision of the Sanctuary Access For Eligible Residents Scheme.	1.8.25 – 31.3.27
Safe Accommodation awareness raising	Campaign targeting professionals to raise awareness of safe accommodation support services, to dispel negative perceptions and myths surrounding refugees.	1.9.25-31.3.27
Cyber Sanctuary pilot	Delivery of a specialist cyber technician to identify, prevent and protect cyber-crime and stalking for survivors of domestic abuse residing in all forms of safe accommodation.	1.10.25 – 30.11.27
Expansion of Male refuge	Further refuge provision to meet the needs of male survivors of domestic abuse.	1.10.25-31.3.27

There is a second phase of projects that are expected to be fully developed by October 2025 that will be included in a further Officer Decision.

### Financial Implications:

The costs for these projects totals £479,534.00 and will be met in full by of Domestic Abuse Duty Safe Accommodation grant funding. A breakdown by financial year is as follows;

	2025-27	2026-27	2027-2028	
Project Proposal Title	Total	Total	Total	
Enhanced Therapeutic Support	£80,000.00	£80,000.00	£-	TOTAL
Awareness Raising	£15,000.00	£5,000.00	£-	
Cyber Sanctuary	£90,000.00	£52,050.00	£34,700.00	
Expand Male refuge	£67,545.00	£55,239.00	£-	
<b>TOTAL by Financial Year</b>	<b>£252,545.00</b>	<b>£192,289.00</b>	<b>£34,700.00</b>	<b>£479,534.00</b>

### Legal implications:

The Local Authority has a statutory obligation to meet the duties set out in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, including to provide support for people who have experienced domestic abuse residing in what is defined as 'safe accommodation'. This decision supports the ongoing delivery of activity and the council in meeting its statutory duties.

Delivery of these projects will be in line with Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR15).

### Equality Implications:

An EQIA is in place for the DA Act Framework and there are no negative impacts from this decision.

**Comments received from any Members or Officers consulted:**

Members of the Domestic Abuse New Burdens Funding Group and Local Partnership Board have been consulted and endorse the extension of the KIDAS contract and use of the Domestic Abuse Act grant funding.

The Chief Executive has been consulted with in line with Key Decision 25/00033.

**Any alternatives considered and rejected:**

1. **Not utilise Domestic Act grant funding to deliver these new projects** – This would result in continued gaps in domestic abuse support provision. This option has been considered but has been disregarded as it would result in the council not meeting its statutory duties under the DA Act.

**Any conflict of interest declared by any executive member consulted by the decision maker and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:**



.....  
signed

Wednesday 30 July 2025

.....  
date