

Domestic Abuse update

Kent Community Safety Partnership
18.11.2021

Law Legislation

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 has received Royal Assent and is now law

New statutory duty on Tier 1 authorities to ensure there is domestic abuse **support** to meet the needs of survivors and their children **in safe accommodation**

Safe accommodation includes:

- refuge
- dispersed accommodation
- sanctuary schemes (security provision within a survivor's home)
- move on accommodation

Statutory Guidance has been published (draft form)

Kent County Council (KCC) has received £3,103,909 new funding for 2021/22 to be spent on domestic abuse support delivered within safe accommodation

Key Decision made setting out the principles by which it will be used

2022/23 funding will not be finalised until the Spending Review/settlement

Act – Part 4

Local Authorities new statutory duties include to:

- establish a Local Partnership Board
- assess the need and demand for accommodation-based support for all victims and their children, including those who require cross-border support
- carry out a needs assessment with regards to support in safe accommodation
- develop and publish strategies for the provision of support
- give effect to strategies by making commissioning/ de-commissioning decisions
- monitor and evaluate local delivery
- report back to central government

Needs Assessment

- [2020 available here](#)
- 2021 to be published

Kent and Medway DA Strategy

- 2020 – 2023 available [here](#)
- Updated strategy to be published by 5 January

Implementation timeframes

Stage 1: Oct 2021 (now law)

- Rough Sex defence, revenge porn, extraterritorial jurisdiction, homelessness duty
- Definition of DA, LA support, special measures in the Family Court. Prohibition for GP charging (for a letter to support a victim for legal aid)

Stage 2: Nov 21 – May 22

- DA commissioner
- Secure tenancies
- Children as survivors
- Clare's Law as Statutory
- Extending controlling and coercive to post separation
- New offence – non fatal strangulation

Stage 3: 2023

- Domestic Abuse Protection Notices and Orders

Progression against new duties

Local Partnership Board
Face

Needs Assessment

Identified in line with the Act, findings include:
Support needs around mental health or drugs/alcohol can be a barrier to acceptance into refuge services
Variation across the county in the provision of Sanctuary schemes

Strategy

Formal engagement and six-week public consultation on strategy addendum – 'Safe Accommodation' completed and to be published



Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (KIDAS)

council in partnership with other public bodies, commission the countywide KIDAS service



- Managed by KCC Adults Commissioning on behalf of funding partners (PCC, KFRS and district and borough councils)
- Commenced April 2017, extended until March 2024 (decision 21/00063)
- Covers both accommodation-based and community-based support for those aged 16+

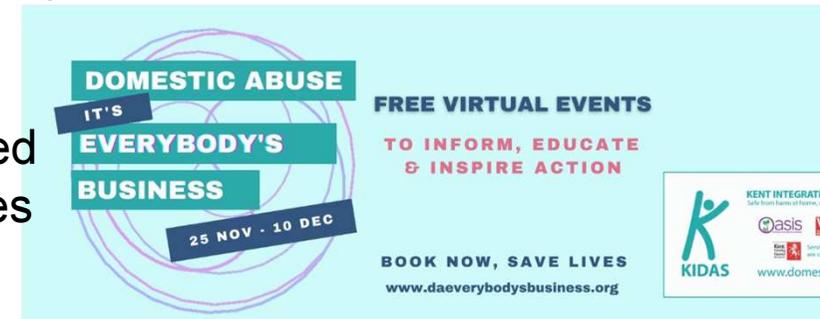
The KIDAS contract is the ideal vehicle to mobilise the 2021/22 new funding allocation effectively and compliantly to support the council in delivering its new statutory duties under the Domestic Abuse Act

MDAS contract successes

Partnership working has enabled access to £1.7 million additional funding

Domestic Abuse: It's Everybody's Business' virtual conference achieved over 10 thousand event registrations – see legacy videos and resources

[Domestic Abuse: It's Everybody's Business – YouTube](#)



The success of the Hospital IDVA project has ensured continuation of funding (MCG) until 2022 – see video <https://youtu.be/RHVoHTJA2IE>

Joint communication plan with Medway including a suite of marketing materials, messages and campaigns – see Know, See, Speak Out campaign resources bit.ly/DAKnowSeeSpeakOut

Resource pack which was rolled out to all COVID testing and vaccination sites to ensure awareness of DA and referral pathways



16 DAYS OF ACTION
Against Domestic Abuse

KNOW
What Domestic Abuse is

SEE
Spot the Signs - it's not always visible

SPEAK OUT
Signpost victims to safety

Join the Kent and Medway 16 Days of Action Against Domestic Abuse campaign
KNOW, SEE, SPEAK OUT
25 Nov - 10 Dec 2021

TAKE ACTION

- > Download and share our social media campaign
- > Use the posters to raise awareness
- > Share the resources with your networks and communities

The more people that Know, See, and Speak Out, the greater chance we have of getting victims to safety.

There has never been a more important time to show your support.

Take action - join the campaign
www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk/latest-news-articles-advice/know-see-speak-out-16-days
#KnowSeeSpeakOut

KIDAS
MEDWAY DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICE
PROVIDING SUPPORT & PROTECTION

Commissioning for the Act

The new Domestic Abuse Act funding allocation is to be spent as follows:

- **Safe accommodation projects** - to fill gaps in support provision as they have been identified through the needs assessment and build on existing non-funded or partially funded support services
- Commissioned **accommodation-based support** in the current KIDAS contract - meeting the existing financial commitment releasing existing funding to be reinvested in new community support
- **Staffing costs for 2021/22** – to support implementation of the new duties

Safe accommodation projects (new funding) being commissioned include:

- therapy / counselling for adult survivors and accompanying children in commissioned refuge services
- continuation and expansion of Specialist IDVAs
- tenancy support to promote move on and tenancy sustainment
- countywide, equitable sanctuary scheme to enable survivors to remain in their own homes

Community support projects (existing funding) include:

- an increase in capacity of the outreach service
- the development of consistent and modernised One Stop Shop
- equipment costs related to the improvement in the Sanctuary offer

Next steps

Policy

- Final Strategy and consultation report to be published
- Kent and Medway Partnership Delivery Plan to be developed and implemented

Commissioning

- Scoping being conducted for county wide Sanctuary offer
- Providers exploring ways to strengthen support offer for male survivors in safe accommodation
- Project being scoped to capture the voice of the survivor which is to include those who currently do not access services

Longer term commissioning plan to be developed in line with Strategy and Delivery Plan

Questions



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