Below is Women’s Aid’s template response to the Government’s [funding for supported housing consultation](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/funding-for-supported-housing-two-consultations). Members can adapt and send this as a word document, or in the body of an email, to: [Supportedhousing.shortterm@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Supportedhousing.shortterm@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

**The deadline for responding to the consultation is 23 January 2017. Please remember the following important information when submitting your response:**

* Title the email: “*Funding of housing costs for short-term supported housing consultation response”*
* State that you are submitting an official response on behalf of an organisation, if that is the case.
* Include the following information in your email: your name; position; the name and address of your organisation (if possible); an email address; and a contact telephone number.
* State the following in your email: “*We are responding to Section 3: consultation on housing costs for short-term supported accommodation’*
* Women’s Aid is not providing responses to specific questions - but the questions are listed below so you can make additional comment on specific question if relevant and appropriate.

If you have any questions or need more information on the consultation, please contact Women’s Aid’s Policy & Campaigns Officer Lucy Hadley: [l.hadley@womensaid.org.uk](mailto:l.hadley@womensaid.org.uk) / 020 7566 2517.

## **Funding Supported Housing Consultation Women’s Aid Template Response for Members**

***Section 3: Consultation on housing costs for short-term supported accommodation***

**[INSERT ORGANISATION NAME HERE]**’s response is restricted to the section of the consultation which is relevant for providers of refuge services, Section 3. Our response sets out why the national network of refuges is unique and does not fit within the proposed funding model for short-term services, the impact of this proposed funding model on refuges, and our views on how a solution for the housing costs of women and children in refuge should be developed in the future.

As a member of Women’s Aid, **[ORGANISATION NAME]** fully supports the national federation’s response to the supported housing consultation.

**[Insert short paragraph about your service, where you are based, the services you run and how long you have been operating in your local area]**

**[INSERT ORGANISATION NAME] is calling on the Government to urgently rethink the model of funding announced on 31st October 2017 for refuges, as part of the reform of funding for short term supported housing. We are warning this model will lead to refuge closures, more women and children turned away from life-saving support and the disintegration of our world-leading national network of women’s refuges. We are asking the Government to urgently halt these plan until the review of refuge funding has been completed in November 2018 and work with Women’s Aid to create a suitable and sustainable future funding model.**

## **Why refuges are unique**

Refuges are far more than just a ‘bed for the night’. Refuges are a small and distinct type of “short term supported housing”, accounting for around 1% of the overall supported accommodation sector. They are life-saving services that provide safety and shelter for thousands of women and children fleeing domestic abuse every year. There remains an urgent and desperate need for refuge services; on average, two women a week are killed by a partner or ex-partner in England and Wales[[1]](#endnote-1) and the time immediately after separation from a perpetrator is well evidenced as a time of severe risk.[[2]](#endnote-2) Without access to safety through refuge provision many thousands of women and children will be left without a vital safety net.

Specialist refuges are services designed specifically to meet the needs of domestic abuse survivors and their children, with trained and experienced staff, in an environment which empowers women, promotes their autonomy and is led by their needs and their recovery. Refuges are not only a place of physical safety, but provide vital emotional support for women and children who have experienced trauma. Specialist staff, and peers, provide a range of practical and therapeutic support that helps women and children to recover and start rebuilding their lives. Whilst refuges are a ‘short term’ and relatively transitional service in terms of the duration of stay, they are transformational in their impact.

[**Insert short case study of a woman/woman and child that received support from your refuge and the outcomes they achieved.**]

Critically, refuges are a national - not a local - network of services. Data from Women’s Aid’s Annual Survey in 2017 shows that about two thirds of women (68.4%) in refuge on the Day to Count had crossed local authority boundaries to access refuge.[[3]](#endnote-3) It is therefore essential that refuges are able to operate as a national network of services to ensure safety for women and children - who rely on a service from a different area accepting them with no ‘local connection’. Refuges are a critical part of the national response to domestic abuse and cannot be planned on a solely local basis alone.

[**Insert number or proportion of women in your refuge who come from another local authority area].**

Refuges accommodate approximately equal numbers of women and children every year. Domestic violence has a devastating impact on children and young people that can last into adulthood, and refuges provide a vital function in keeping children safe, and supporting them to recover. Women’s Aid’s Annual Survey in 2017 found 2182 women with 2336 children were staying in refuge at responding services on the Day to Count 2017.[[4]](#endnote-4) The safeguarding function that refuges provide for children is a crucial, and unique, part of the service. **[Insert information about the number of children and young people that you support and the specialist support that you offer to C&YP.]**

Specialist refuges also provide a huge amount of added social value to their local communities through programmes of work over and above the refuge service. Refuge providers often deliver training to local statutory agencies, support for children and young people, education sessions in local schools or other community settings, advise local authorities, and raise awareness of domestic abuse and the help and support available. More often than not, these additional programmes of work - critical for preventing and tackling domestic abuse - are not directly funded and are delivered by staff over and above their core work. 45.5% of domestic abuse organisations responding to Women’s Aid’s Annual Survey in 2017 were running an area of work without any dedicated funding during the previous financial year.[[5]](#endnote-5) **[Insert any areas of work that your refuge service is delivering without dedicated funding].**

The support that refuges provide is unique, highly specialised and goes far beyond that which is offered in general homelessness services, or other short term accommodation providers. The Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2016-2019, and supporting National Statement of Expectations, set out the Government’s clear commitment to provide this form of specialist refuge support and ensure that “*no victim is turned away from accessing critical support services delivered by refuges*.”[[6]](#endnote-6)

The distinct and unique role that refuges play was recognised in a cross-party report of the House of Commons Work and Pensions and Communities and Local Government Select Committees in May 2017, which stated that *“Refuges for women and children have unique challenges within the supported housing sector. This should be reflected in a distinct model of funding, separate to the arrangements for other forms of supported housing. In particular, it is essential that refuges are able to operate as a national network, unrestrained by admission restrictions imposed by individual local authorities and with appropriate coverage across the country*.”[[7]](#endnote-7)

## **Current demand and funding**

Currently, demand for life-saving help from refuges far outstrips supply, with women and children being turned away daily at the point of need. Data from 69 refuge services responding to Women’s Aid Annual Survey in 2017[[8]](#endnote-8) found that:

* 60% of referrals to refuge in 2016-17 were declined; there are likely to have been many more potential referrals that weren’t made because the refuge was already known to be full.
* On just one day in 2017, 94 women and 90 children were turned away from refuge services in England.[[9]](#endnote-9)

**[Please insert information here on the number of referrals you had to turn away over the last year, or on just one day – you could include the number that you used in response to Women’s Aid’s Annual Survey in 2017.]**

Data collected from over 50 refuge services collected by Women’s Aid to assess the impact of the proposed ‘short-term supported housing services’ model in November 2017 found that:

* Only 22% respondents felt that the commissioned refuge spaces in their local authority meet the need.
* This figure was 28% amongst refuges services who were commissioned themselves and, just 7% amongst those who were not commissioned.[[10]](#endnote-10)

There are serious and harmful impacts of this demand, and the shortage of refuge places, on women and children experiencing domestic abuse. Women’s Aid’s Nowhere to Turn report has detailed the experiences of 404 women who waited for a refuge space whilst being supported by the No Woman Turned Away casework team: 17% of women had to call the police to respond to a further incident of domestic abuse, and 8% were physically injured by the perpetrator. 11% of women slept rough during this time, of which seven women had children with them and three were pregnant. 40% of women sofa surfed and one woman disclosed that she was sexually assaulted whilst sofa surfing at a family friend’s house.[[11]](#endnote-11)

Despite significant need for refuge, funding remains highly insecure. Refuges currently have two main forms of income:

* **Support funding** enables refuges to pay their support staff and can sometimes fund counselling, therapy and advice. This funding reduced significantly after the ring-fence on the ‘Supporting People’ programme was removed in 2009, and the fund was absorbed into shrinking local authority budgets in 2011. In response, the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) delivered over £53 million in emergency grant funding for refuges and other domestic abuse services to local authorities between 2014-18. Whilst this welcome funding has bolstered provision, it has not delivered a sustainable solution and the provision of support funding remains highly fragmented and short term. **[Option to insert here how much of your income comes from the local authority – remember your response will be a public document].**
* **Housing funding** is needed to run a refuge building, and covers rent and service charges. Data from Women’s Aid has found that, on average, housing benefit provides 89% of a refuge’s weekly housing costs in England and provides around 53% of their total yearly income.[[12]](#endnote-12) Housing benefit provides national financial certainty for paying the individual housing costs of eligible women and children in refuges and - unlike support funding - is not subject to local discretion. **[Option to insert here how much of your income comes from housing benefit – remember your response will be a public document].**

Over the past few years we have seen an increasingly fragmented, unstable and insecure funding picture for refuges across England. After the devolution of supporting people funding, and the removal of the ring-fence around this funding, specialist refuges have become increasingly vulnerable. The proportion of local authority support funding now differs hugely from place to place - in what is known as a ‘postcode lottery’ of domestic violence provision:

* Recent Freedom of Information (FOI) requests by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism to local authorities have shown that local authority funding for refuges across England has dropped from £31.2m in 2010/11 to just £23.9m in 2016/17 - a reduction of 24%.[[13]](#endnote-13)
* Women’s Aid’s survey in 2017, which 60 refuges in England responded to, found that 15% of responding refuge services are receiving no local authority funding at all.[[14]](#endnote-14)
* About half of respondents to Women’s Aid’s Annual Survey stated that their biggest challenge in 2015/16 as being funding cuts and uncertainties over future income.[[15]](#endnote-15) The short term and uncertain nature of funding is a huge challenge, which forces refuges to spend time and resource on bids, tendering and income generation, rather than their core purpose - supporting women and children.
* There is frequently a lack of expertise amongst local authority commissioners on the nature and impact of domestic violence, which can result in poor decision making. Tenders frequently favour non-specialist generic providers, who can provide bedspaces at a lower cost, but do not provide the level of specialist support of a refuge run by and for women.

**[Option to insert information about the issues your service faces with support funding].**

Women’s Aid has reported on these issues widely. The impact of this unstable funding environment for specialist refuges is huge: services often operating on shoe-string budgets with no long term certainty; refuges turning more women and children away; a reduction in 24 hour staffing and referrals; closure of additional support services for children and young people; refuges losing contracts to larger less specialist services; limited capacity to support women with multiple and complex needs; and sadly, decommissioning and closures of specialist refuges.

When looking at the current financial landscape for support costs funding for specialist refuges, it is evidently clear why the Government’s proposal to also devolve housing costs represents a huge risk to the future sustainability of this sector.

## **Why this proposal is inappropriate**

**[INSERT NAME OF ORGANISATION] is clear that the model of funding for short term accommodation outlined in this proposal is not appropriate for refuges and poses huge risks to the future of this national network of specialist services.**

The proposed local model would mean that complete responsibility and resourcing for domestic violence refuges falls to local authorities. It would also combine the commissioning and provision of specialist refuges with other forms of short-term housing, in a ‘one size fits all’ model. This is wholly inappropriate for, and risks the end of, the national network of specialist domestic violence refuges. As has already been demonstrated through serious issues with support costs funding since 2010, a local commissioning and funding system without robust national oversight or accountability has disastrous consequences for women’s refuges. **[INSERT NAME OF ORGANISATION]** by the proposal for the following key reasons:

* **Removing individual entitlement for housing benefit**willfundamentally change how refuges operate. Rather than receiving housing benefit for individual women, refuges will be required to tender and bid for housing funding in the same way that they currently do for support funding. We are concerned that local authorities will impose conditions or restrictions for the housing fund grant - and services may face pressure to impose eligibility conditions, such as on a woman’s length of stay. Removing refuges from the national benefits system, and ending women’s individual entitlement to support with her housing costs when in refuge, will not provide additional funding security for refuges - but will further increase local direction over their funding and remove their secure form of income.
* **Fully localised model:**refuges are a critical part of the national response to domestic violence, and have to operate as a national network of services to ensure safety for survivors. The Government’s statement that “*local authorities are best placed to deliver better outcomes for vulnerable renters in crisis and emergency supported housing as they understand local needs and can take a holistic view on both housing and support* *provision*”[[16]](#endnote-16) is simply not applicable to the national network of refuge provision. Whilst it is essential that local authorities are mapping local need and demand for services, the vast majority of women and children will enter refuge from a different local authority area – and we are therefore concerned that a fully localised model of funding is not workable.
* **Short-term and uncertain**: operating within the national benefits system provides some funding security in a highly challenging funding landscape. A localised grant-funding model creates huge uncertainty - particularly if housing costs funding is subject to short term contracts and decisions, budget reductions, or drives to reduce demand, costs and levels of service at a local level. The Government’s rationale that devolving housing costs funding will give refuge providers *“certainty as regards funding, enabling them to plan for the short and long term”* does not align with experience of local funding for refuges to date.[[17]](#endnote-17) The grant devolved to local authorities for housing costs will not be ring-fenced specifically to refuges, there is no guarantee refuges who are not commissioned by the local authority will receive this funding, and there is no guarantee over the longevity of the ring-fence beyond an ‘intention’ that it will be retained.
* **Will not respond to demand:** local grant-funding for short-term supported housing will be based on current projections of future need, and informed by local authorities. This will be a fixed ‘pot’ of money, and it has not been made clear how it will flex or respond to actual levels of demand for refuge. Refuge demand far outstrips supply, and there is no clear model for predicting future need. Demand in this sector is driven by complex factors, not only population levels, fertility, mortality and migration. For example, demand for refuge is likely to increase if the Government’s ambitions in the Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill are achieved, and more victims come forward to seek help. It will be extremely challenging, if not impossible, to accurately project future need for refuge by consulting with local authorities alone.
* **Generic, not specialist*:*** local commissioning practices, which often lack expertise in domestic violence, have severely damaged specialist refuge provision. In a context of major demand for refuge and other “short-term services”, budget constraints and pressures on local authorities to improve homelessness provision, there will be little incentive to commission a range of specialist services that meet differing needs. Rather, this ‘one-size fits all’ model will further encourage generic short-term housing -which can beprovided at lower-cost, but does not deliver the specialist support of a refuge. Categorising refuges as one form of ‘”short-term” supported housing fails to recognise their unique role in the response to domestic abuse, the quality support that they deliver to women and children, and the outcomes they achieve.

**[Option to insert concerns that your service has with the proposed funding reforms].**

## **Impact of the new model**

Women’s Aid carried out an emergency survey with refuge providers[[18]](#footnote-1) following the announcement of these proposals, to understand the impact it would have upon their service. The findings have demonstrated the impact that the proposed ‘short-term supported housing’ funding model would have for refuges in England:

* Providers responding to our survey tell us that over a third, 39%, of their refuge services would have to close completely, seeing the loss of a total of 446 refuge spaces.
* A further 13% of the refuge services in our survey would reduce the spaces available in their refuges, by a total of 142 spaces between them.
* This means that, from the sample in our survey, just over half of refuges (52%) would either have to close the refuge service entirely or reduce the number of spaces available - a loss of 588 refuge spaces collectively.
* In total, we estimate that the 588 spaces lost would have supported 2,058 women and 2,202 children during the year - resulting in 4000 more women and children being turned away from the lifesaving services they desperately need.[[19]](#endnote-18)

As only one third of refuges in England responded to the survey, this loss of provision is likely to just be the tip of the iceberg.

**[Please insert your analysis of what this funding model will mean for your service. If you completed the survey, you can use the data that you supplied to Women’s Aid to complete the recent survey on the impact of this model of funding.]**

These stark findings paint a picture of the catastrophic impact the Government’s proposals will have on women’s refuges. These further cutbacks and closures are on top of years of funding cuts and poor local commissioning practices, which have already had a devastating impact on the national network of women’s refuges.

It is clear that Government must reconsider their approach and work with Women’s Aid, and specialist refuges providers, to design a future model of funding that will work in practice.

## **Future refuge funding model**

To create a sustainable future for these life-saving services, a new funding model must cover both refuge’s support and housing costs, and meet the national need for bedspaces in services that are resourced to meet women’s and children’s needs. The key principles for a new funding model for refuges, based on 40 years of experience and practice, are set out below:

* Ensure that no women or children are turned away from a refuge when and where they need one and no services are lost in the transition to a new model.
* Be designed alongside Women’s Aid and specialist refuges to ensure that the model is fit for purpose and workable on the ground.
* Provide a specific and bespoke funding solution for refuges, recognising that the challenges these services face and the support they provide is unique within the sector, and that they save lives.
* Be underpinned by a clear understanding of what a refuge is, the type of support it offers and the outcomes women and children achieve.
* Ensure refuges are available for all women who need them, including women with No Recourse to Public Funds.
* Recognise the trauma that women and children fleeing to refuge face, and provide them with the support, shelter and security they need in order to work towards safety, independence and freedom.
* Ensure children have specific specialist support in refuge, allowing them to transition into a new school and build new friendships whilst recovering from trauma.
* Recognise and cater for particular refuge services of national importance, such as those for Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) women or disabled women.
* Ensure commissioners commission services that will support women from any local authority, regardless of their ‘local connection’, to ensure women can flee to a safe location.
* Establish robust accountability arrangements to enable monitoring and scrutiny of local commissioners in accordance with national expectations for service provision, and ensure that ‘no victim is turned away’.
* Create a sustainable future for specialist DVA services, where services are funded for at least three years at a time - enabling services to innovate and adapt to meet need, and reducing bureaucracy and time spent on tender processes rather than delivering support.
* Incentivise early intervention and the provision of local support to work towards the long term reduction of domestic violence and reliance on refuge services.

**Fully devolving responsibility and resourcing threatens to dismantle the national network of refuges and put the lives of women and children trying to escape abuse at risk. [INSERT ORGANISATION NAME] calls on the Government to rethink this proposal and work with Women’s Aid and refuge providers to secure a sustainable model of funding that will work for these live saving services.**

**Further to our above response [INSERT ORGANISATION NAME] endorses Women’s Aid Federation of England’s responses to Consultation Questions 1 – 11.**

**Consultation Questions**

**[Women’s Aid recommends that you only answer these specific questions if you have a detailed contribution to make – otherwise it is perfectly acceptable to just use the template above and delete the questions below. We have outlined the questions, and provided some guidance for answering specifically relevant questions below which may be helpful.]**

**Question 1: Do you agree with this definition?**

***Short Term Supported Housing is: Accommodation with support, accessed following a point of crisis or as part of a transition to living independently, and provided for a period of up to two years or until transition to suitable long-term stable accommodation is found, whichever occurs first.***

The concerns of Women’s Aid and **[XXX name of organisation]** with this definition are principally:

* It does not capture the unique nature of refuge services, their life-saving role, and the fact that they are an essential part of crisis response to domestic abuse;
* It does not include any reference to children, although refuges support almost equal numbers of women and children;
* The definition does not reflect that refuges are not only transitional, but transformative. It would require far more specificity around the outcomes that refuges achieve - such as safety, independence, freedom - and make clear that refuges do not just house people for a short period and help them transition on again, but they change women and children’s lives.

Refuges are a very specific and small part of the short-term supported housing sector. As such, this is generic definition is not appropriate and does not adequately describe refuge services.

**Question 2: What detailed design features would help to provide the necessary assurances that costs will be met?**

**XXX [insert name of organisation]** is joining Women’s Aid’s calls for an urgent rethink on this model. For the reasons set out above it is fundamentally unworkable and poses a huge risk to the life-saving national network of refuges.

**Question 3b: Does the local authority you work with involve you in drawing up Supported housing Strategic Plans?**

[Yes/No]

**Question 4b: Could you provide local government with a detailed assessment of demand and provision if you were asked to do so?**

Yes, we are able to provide a picture of the demand for our service and the provision available. **[Add any relevant details.]** Women’s Aid Federation of England also have detailed information on the national picture of demand and provision.

**Question 5:** I**n two-tier local authority areas the grant will be allocated to the upper tier, to fund provision as agreed with districts in line with the Strategic Plan. Grant conditions will also require the upper tier to develop this plan in cooperation with district authorities and relevant partners. Do you agree with this approach?**

[Yes/No]

**Question 6: The draft National Statement of Expectation (see Section 4) published today sets out further detail on new oversight arrangements and the role of local authorities. We would welcome your views on the statement and suggestions for detailed guidance.**

**Question 7: Do you currently have arrangements in place on providing for those with no local connection.**

**[You may wish to add in any information on caps that local authorities have imposed on your services for women and children coming from out of area.]**

**Question 8: How can we help to ensure that local authorities are able to commission both accommodation and associated support costs in a more aligned and strategic way? Do you have further suggestions to ensure this is achieved?**

**Question 9: How will you prepare for implementation in 2020, and what can the Government do to facilitate this?**

**Question 10: What suggestions do you have for testing and/or piloting the funding model?**

**Question 11: If you have any further comments on any aspects of our proposals for short-term supported housing, please could you state them here.**

**XXX [insert name of organisations]** is joining Women’s Aid’s calls for an urgent rethink of this proposal. As stated above, the current ‘short-term supported housing services’ model is fundamentally unworkable for refuges, and poses a huge risk to the life-saving national network of these life-saving services.

**For more information please contact:**

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*Email:* [*l.hadley@womensaid.org.uk*](mailto:l.hadley@womensaid.org.uk)

**[Enter your contact details here]**

1. Office for National Statistics, *Crime Statistics, Focus on Violent Crime and Sexual Offences, Year ending March 2016, Chapter 2: Homicide (*Published [online](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/compendium/focusonviolentcrimeandsexualoffences/yearendingmarch2016/homicide#statistical-interpretation-of-trends-in-homicides): Office for National Statistics, 2017 – See Tab 2.05 in the Excel file linked to from section 6 this web page [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. The Femicide Census - Women’s Aid in partnership with Karen Ingala Smith, Redefining an Isolated Incident, 2016. [Accessible Online](https://1q7dqy2unor827bqjls0c4rn-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/The-Femicide-Census-2016.pdf). [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Women’s Aid, Annual Survey 2017 [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. Women’s Aid Annual Survey, 2017 [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. Women’s Aid, Annual Survey 2017, from 56 services out of 132 organisations responding to this question. [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. HM Government, Ending Violence Against Women & Girls 2016-2020. [Accessible online](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/522166/VAWG_Strategy_FINAL_PUBLICATION_MASTER_vRB.PDF). [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. HC 867, First Joint Report of the Communities and Local Government and Work and Pensions Committees of Session 2016–17, Future of Supported Housing, 1 May 2017. [Accessible online](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmcomloc/867/867.pdf). [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. Women’s Aid Annual Survey 2017, from 69 refuge services responding to this question. Data [accessible online](https://1q7dqy2unor827bqjls0c4rn-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Womens_Aid_Data_DVA_Provision.docx.pdf). [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
9. Women’s Aid Annual Survey 2017, on the Day to Count (census day). Data [accessible online](https://1q7dqy2unor827bqjls0c4rn-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Womens_Aid_Data_DVA_Provision.docx.pdf). [↑](#endnote-ref-9)
10. Women’s Aid surveyed all providers of refuge services listed on Routes to Support in England on 1st November 2017, from 54 responses to this question. [↑](#endnote-ref-10)
11. Women’s Aid, Nowhere to Turn: Findings from the First Year of the No Woman Turned Away Project, 2017 [↑](#endnote-ref-11)
12. Women’s Aid, Survey on the LHA Cap, 2016 - from 43 refuges in our sample responding to this question. [↑](#endnote-ref-12)
13. The Bureau of Investigative Journalism, 16th October 2017. [Accessible online.](https://www.thebureauinvestigates.com/stories/2017-10-16/a-system-at-breaking-point) [↑](#endnote-ref-13)
14. Women’s Aid, Survey of Refuge Providers on the Impact of the Government’s Supported Housing Reforms, November 2017 Women’s Aid, Survey of Refuge Providers on the Impact of the Government’s Supported Housing Reforms, November 2017 [↑](#endnote-ref-14)
15. Women’s Aid Annual Survey 2016 [↑](#endnote-ref-15)
16. DCLG and DWP, Funding for Supported Housing - Policy Statement and Consultation, 31 October 2017. [Accessible online](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/655990/Funding_supported_housing_-_policy_statement_and_consultation.pdf). [↑](#endnote-ref-16)
17. DCLG and DWP, Funding for Supported Housing - Policy Statement and Consultation, 31 October 2017. [Accessible online](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/655990/Funding_supported_housing_-_policy_statement_and_consultation.pdf). [↑](#endnote-ref-17)
18. Women’s Aid surveyed all providers of refuge services listed on Routes to Support in England on 1st November 2017. We received 60 responses (38% of all providers) to our survey from providers running 78 refuge services with a total 1,149 refuge spaces between them. In all this accounts for 31% of the refuge spaces available and 29% of the refuge services in England. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
19. Women’s Aid, Survey of Refuge Providers on the Impact of the Government’s Supported Housing Reforms, November 2017 [↑](#endnote-ref-18)