

# Domestic abuse support service provision in your area

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The Domestic Abuse Bill includes a new statutory duty on tier one local authorities to fund support in safe accommodation. The Bill is currently progressing through the House of Lords and is expected to become law in April 2021, with the duty enacted by summer 2021.

To support local authorities (LAs) in preparing for the introduction of the statutory duty for safe accommodation in their area, including preparing to conduct the full needs assessment required under the duty, they need to understand:

1. How much provision exists in their LA at present and how accessible the existing provision is to all women and children;
2. How much is currently commissioned by themselves/PCCs/CCGs and how much is not;
3. How many refuge spaces they would need to provide in order to meet established expectations and requirements for the provision of safe accommodation.

For a fixed cost of £850, Women's Aid offer a detailed report on provision in your area of responsibility as set out on the next page. If you have any particular requirements not included in the report profile below please contact us to discuss.

**To find out more or to request your report please contact Sarah Davidge, Research and Evaluation Manager at Women's Aid on [s.davidge@womensaid.org.uk](mailto:s.davidge@womensaid.org.uk)**

A standard local area mapping report from Women's Aid will provide you with a profile of domestic abuse provision in your local area. This will include a snapshot of domestic abuse support service provision on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020 and analysis of data on refuge vacancies for the year 2019-20. This information is taken from Routes to Support<sup>1</sup>, the UK wide directory and database of violence against women and girls (VAWG) support services and refuge vacancies. RtS provides information about the types of domestic abuse services, the number of bed spaces in refuge services, who these services can support and changes to provision over time.

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<sup>1</sup> run in partnership by Women's Aid Federation of England, Women's Aid Federation of Northern Ireland, Scottish Women's Aid and Welsh Women's Aid

## Contents of report

### 1.0 Providers in the local area

The report will tell you the numbers and types of providers in the area.

### 2.0 Quality assurance and membership

The report will set out how many providers in the area hold the Women's Aid National Quality Standards<sup>2</sup>. It will also give the membership status of providers in the area. Whilst membership of Women's Aid does not constitute a full quality check, it does require services to have signed up to a core statement of support and a terms of reference which set out core values related to the provision of services for women experiencing gender based violence. Lastly this section will show how many of the providers are registered on the Routes to Support directory of VAWG services, which requires sight of documents to verify that the main activity of the organisation or project is the provision of services specifically designed to meet the needs of women and children who have experienced VAWG.<sup>3</sup>

### 2.0 Commissioning of refuge services in area

How many of the refuge services and spaces currently provided are commissioned by the local authority under current arrangements.

### 3.0 Types of support offered in area

A profile of support offered including:

- Types of violence against women and girls (VAWG) supported
- Types of service offered (e.g. refuge, outreach, advocacy etc.)
- Specialist support for women from marginalised groups
- Support for male victims of domestic abuse

### 4.0 Refuge spaces

A profile of refuge spaces available including how many spaces exist, what size rooms and how many are in services commissioned by local authorities. We will also provide details of what support types are accessible to women in the refuge, any barriers to access and details of refuge vacancies available in the area during the year 2019-20.

### 5.0 List of providers in area

A snapshot taken on 1st November 2020 with details of the number of services each runs in the area.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.womensaid.org.uk/what-we-do/national-quality-standards>

<sup>3</sup> For more information on the access and inclusion criteria see <https://www.womensaid.org.uk/routes-to-support/>