

Funding specialist support for domestic abuse survivors: revised estimates August 2021

Introduction

The revised estimates in this document use the methodology developed and explained in Women's Aid's report *Funding Specialist Support for Domestic Abuse Survivors*, published in November 2019.¹

Estimates in the report, and these revised estimates, include the following areas of work which are essential to provision.

Refuge services:

1. Refuge services (this includes any or all of shared housing, self-contained units with some communal spaces, and dispersed accommodation).
2. Resettlement support to enable women to move on to a new home from refuge.
3. Dedicated support for children and young people staying in the refuge.
4. Therapeutic support services, such as formal counselling and support groups, which are vital to women's recovery.

Community-based support (CBS) services:

1. Outreach, floating support and advocacy (including IDVA) services.
2. Dedicated support for children and young people, either where their parent is being supported, or where support is being provided directly to them independently.
3. Therapeutic support services, such as formal counselling and support groups, which are vital to women's recovery.
4. Community outreach support (education and awareness raising work e.g. training professionals or work in local schools).

¹ Women's Aid. 2019. *Funding Specialist Support for Domestic Abuse Survivors*. Bristol: Women's Aid. Available [online](#).

What we have updated

Updated unit costs for inflation

Funding Specialist Support for Domestic Abuse Survivors developed a cost per unit of 10,000 population. Please see the full 2019 report for full details of the methodology used, and the list of pre-requisites and limitations.

Unit cost estimates in the full 2019 report were based on 2019 prices. We have adjusted costs for inflation over the last two years using the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) CPI inflation estimates and projections,² accounting for inflation between Quarter 3 (Jul-Sep) 2019 and Quarter 3 (Jul-Sep) 2021.

$$(([\text{CPI for 2021Q3}]/[\text{CPI for 2019Q3}]) - 1) * 100 = [\text{percentage inflation to be applied to 2019 unit costs}]$$

$$((110.672/108.268) - 1) * 100 = 2.22$$

Inflation of 2.22% has been applied to the final unit costs developed in our original methodology.

Updated for population increase

Funding Specialist Support for Domestic Abuse Survivors applied the cost per unit of 10,000 population to ONS mid-year 2018 population estimates.³ The total population estimate at that time, for England, was 55,977,178. This equates to 5,598 units of 10,000 population which was used to calculate our original estimates.

The latest ONS projected population for mid-year 2021 is 56,989,570 or 5,699 units of 10,000 population.⁴ This document revises our estimates using the cost per unit adjusted for inflation, as shown above, applied to the updated population projections.

² Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR). 2021. *Economic and fiscal outlook- March 2021*. Published [online](#): OBR. Table 1.7.

³ Office for National Statistics (ONS). (2019) *Population estimates for the UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland: mid-2018*. Published [online](#): ONS.

⁴ Office for National Statistics (ONS). 2019. *2018-based National population projections*. Published [online](#): ONS. Accessed August 2021.

Revised estimates

Total unit cost for refuge and CBS services

By adding together the total unit costs for support staff, activity costs and central costs we arrived at a total unit cost for refuge services and CBS services. The updated unit cost are shown in Table 1 below. Please see *Funding Specialist Support for Domestic Abuse Survivors* for a full breakdown of how these unit costs were developed.

Table 1: average cost per unit per year			
Type of cost	Refuge unit cost	CBS unit cost	Total cost per 10,000 population
Support staff costs per unit	£19,940	£24,329	£44,269
Activity costs per unit	£2,953	£3,330	£6,283
Central costs per unit	£8,855	£12,414	£21,269
TOTAL	£31,748	£40,073	£71,821

Total costs for refuge and CBS provision in England over a year

We have assessed the funding needed for one unit of provision to meet the needs of 10,000 population over a year. In the case of refuge services this is also equal to one space as per the Council of Europe recommendation⁵ of a minimum of one refuge space per 10,000 population. See *Funding Specialist Support for Domestic Abuse Survivors* on measuring demand for an explanation on why we have used this established measure.

The ONS projected population for mid-year 2021 is 56,989,570. Based on a unit cost of 10,000 population it would take 5,699 refuge spaces (units of provision) to serve this population. As our methodology also uses a unit of one per 10,000 population for CBS services, 5,699 units of this support are also required to meet the needs of the whole population of England. Table 2 shows our assessment of the level of investment needed per year to effectively fund the specialist domestic abuse support sector in England.

Table 2: the cost of domestic abuse services in England	
Type of cost	Cost for England (5,699 units)
Refuge services	£180,931,852
Community based support services	£228,376,027
Total	£409,307,879

⁵ Council of Europe (2008): "...safe accommodation in specialised women's shelters, available in every region, with one family place per 10,000 head of population." (p. 51). Council of Europe (CoE). (2008) The Final Activity Report of the Council of Europe Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence (EG-TFV) Strasbourg: Gender Equality & Anti-Trafficking Division Directorate General of Human Rights & Legal Affairs, Council of Europe.