On 1 February 2021 the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) announced an additional one-year funding to support victims and survivors of domestic abuse (DA) and sexual violence (SV).

The additional funding was distributed via Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) as an uplift to the core victims grant and through an EOI process for the ISVA and IDVA fund. Part of the allocation of this funding was £8.95m for Domestic Abuse.

Unlike the extraordinary Covid-19 funding provided in 2020/21, organisations do not need to be a registered charity; a charitable incorporated organisation, or a social enterprise can be eligible for this funding. They must, however, provide support services which have the purpose of helping victims of SV or DA cope with the impacts of crime, and, as far as possible, recover from the harm they have experienced. PCCs must also ensure before awarding grants that the DA and SV organisations have a proven track record of providing tailored services for particular groups such as LGBT, disabled, Black and Minoritised communities and male victims, when establishing local need, and ensure they are proportionately represented within funding allocations. PCCs must also engage with other local commissioners, including the local authority, when establishing and assessing local need.

This means that if a PCC thinks that they can most appropriately meet local need by allocating their funding to a local authority or other local body, they are permitted to do so provided they are able to evidence how this meets local need.

Some of you are already aware of this funding and have received grants to enable you to employ further IDVAs and pay for their training. Others may not be aware and may want to contact their local PCC office to enquire about the possibility of funding and enquire about the allocation.

The MoJ have named Women's Aid as one of the providers for the IDVA training associated with the grants and places are filling up fast. We are able to offer this training to a maximum of 180 people, who will finish the training before the end of March 2022. We are therefore urging those of you that have received this funding but not yet booked places on the training to contact the training department as soon as possible in order to secure your place and for those who are not aware of it to contact your local PCC office to enquire as to how, if at all, the funding was allocated.

Places are offered on a first-come, first-served basis so please email training@womensaid.org.uk to find out more.